

# Gernot Hoffmann The Digital Munsell

Glossy version  
Colors by Lab numbers  
Illuminant D50

Out-of-gamut distances  
for sRGB and ISOCoated

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**Introduction**

The Munsell color system was created by the artist A.H.Munsell in 1905 and then improved over the years by scientists (Munsell renotation 1943).

The colors are arranged so, that the perceptual difference between two neighbours is constant, concerning the hue (M. Hue or H in degrees), the lightness (M.Value V) and eventually the chroma (M.Chroma C). Good descriptions can be found in text books [1],[2], [3], [5] and in the publication [19].

Munsell samples are available as chips [29]. The perceptual balance requires viewing under light similar to illuminant C [6]. Such an illumination is hardly anywhere found outside laboratories.

This document *The Digital Munsell* is based on the appearance of glossy Munsell chips under illumination D50. Light booths for D50 are available, either with fluorescent tubes or with *Solux* tungsten halogen bulbs [26]. There was no attempt to simulate the original appearance under illuminant C .

The author is most grateful to *Roger Breton* for interesting discussions, for supplying CIELab reference data (originally from X-Rite's ColorMunki) and for measured data. Reference data for some colors were missing. The gaps could be filled by Roger's measured data (under D50) for the complete set. The lightness of the Neutrals in ColorMunki [30] was too large. The CIELab data were replaced by Roger's measured data. One totally wrong set 2.5B\_6/10 was ignored.

Data sets from the Munsell Color Science Laboratory [18] cannot be used, because they are valid for illuminant C. There are two versions: the real Munsells and the extrapolated Munsells. Real Munsell chromas are not larger than 16, whereas extrapolated Munsells can have chromas almost double as large. This is important for understanding some illustrations in [19] and for the interpretation of data in [1].

This doc shows a subset of about 1600 real Munsell colors, as existing in chip sets. It can be printed by a PostScript printer. All colors patches are programmed by CIE-Lab numbers.

The printer should work in PostScript mode ,Archive Format' instead of ,Optimized for speed'. Otherwise some elements might get lost.

Some printers cannot reproduce CIELab correctly. In such a case the CIELab values in the PDF should be converted by Acrobat Professional into ProPhotoRGB, and the printer should use this wide gamut space as input space.

The Munsell nomenclature is interpreted for instance like this:

10R 5/8 means H=18°, V=5 and C=8.

The Munsell Hue is defined by a name. The table contains the assigned angle in degrees.

Planes of constant H are made for multiples of 9°. Planes of constant V are made for all available hues.

Values V reach here from 0 to 10, including the ideal absorber and the ideal diffuser.

Chroma C is usually shown by steps of 2 (2 steps C should be perceptually equivalent to 1 step V).

Available data with C=1 are ignored.

Each page for a plane of constant H contains in fact two hues:

H1 and H2 = H1+180°.

Each page has a partner page which contains CIELab values L\*,a\*,b\* and gamma encoded values R,G,B for sRGB (written without apostroph) .

If a color is out-of-gamut for sRGB, then the estimated out-of-gamut distance is indicated bottom right in CIELab units.

If a color is out-of-gamut for the specified CMYK space, which is at present ISO-Coated\_v2\_eci.icc, then the estimated distance is indicated bottom left in each field.

The underlying algorithms are described in [24].

Planes of constant V in CIELab contain gamut boundaries for sRGB and for the CMYK space. The lightness L\* was calculated as mean value of all colors in each diagram.

**Used Hues by name and angle Step dH=9°**

2.5R	351
5R	0
7.5R	9
10R	18

2.5YR	27
5YR	36
7.5YR	45
10YR	54

2.5Y	63
5Y	72
7.5Y	81
10Y	90

2.5GY	99
5GY	108
7.5GY	117
10GY	126

2.5G	135
5G	144
7.5G	153
10G	162

2.5BG	171
5BG	180
7.5BG	189
10BG	198

2.5B	207
5B	216
7.5B	225
10B	234

2.5PB	243
5PB	252
7.5PB	261
10PB	270

2.5P	279
5P	288
7.5P	297
10P	306

2.5RP	315
5RP	324
7.5RP	333
10RP	342

**Used Neutrals Step dV=1**

N=0, 1, . . . 9, 10  
Added N=0 and N=10

**Unused**

1.25YR	22.5
3.75YR	31.5
6.25YR	40.5
8.75YR	49.5

1.25Y	58.5
3.75Y	67.5
6.25Y	76.5
8.75Y	85.5

1.25GY	94.5
3.75GY	103.5
6.25GY	112.5
8.75GY	121.5

1.25G	130.5
3.75G	139.5
6.25G	148.5
8.75G	157.5

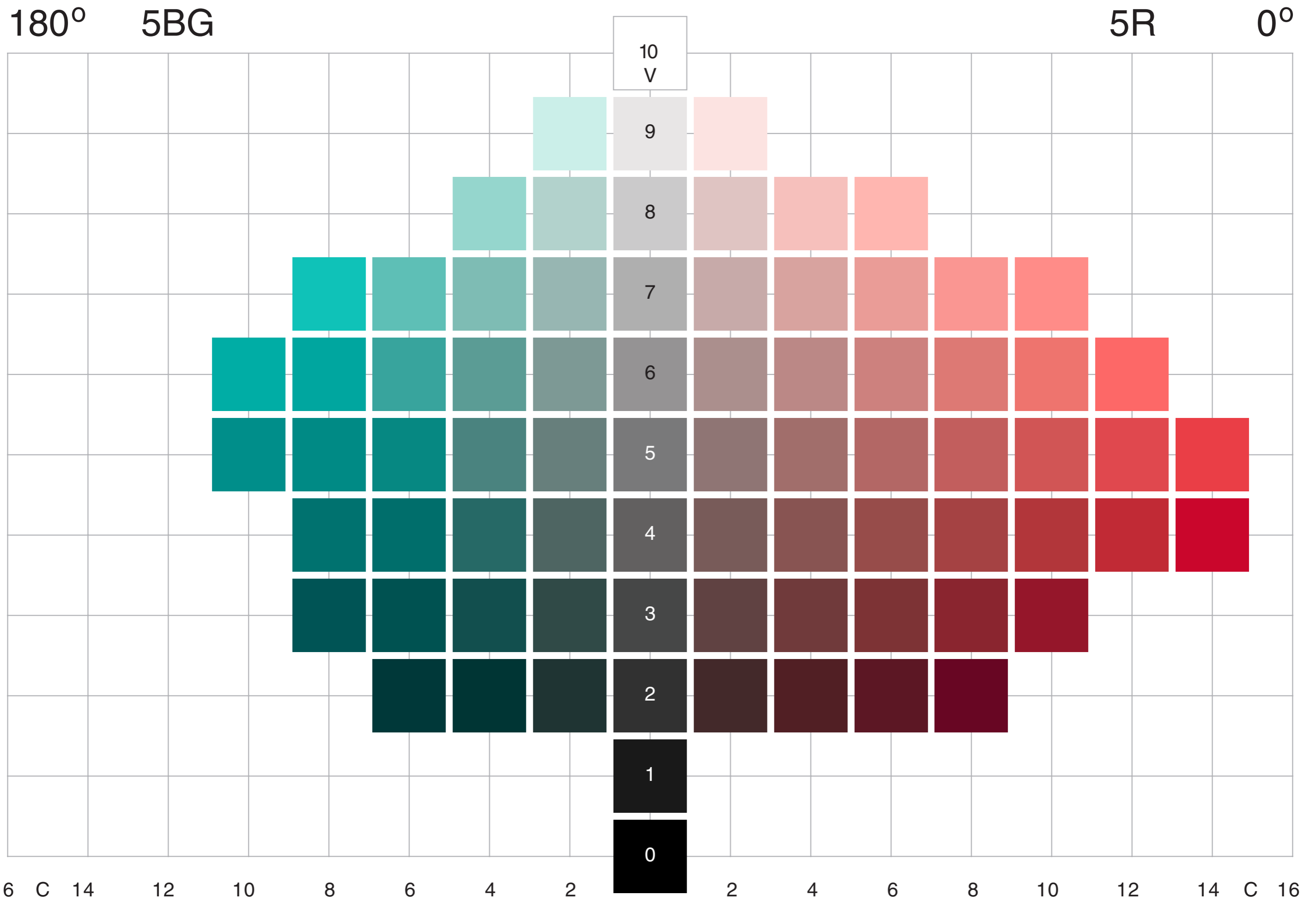
1.25PB	238.5
3.75PB	247.5
6.25PB	256.5
8.75PB	265.5

1.25RP	310.5
3.75RP	319.5
6.25RP	328.5
8.75RP	337.5

1.25R	346.5
3.75R	355.5
6.25R	4.5
8.75R	13.5

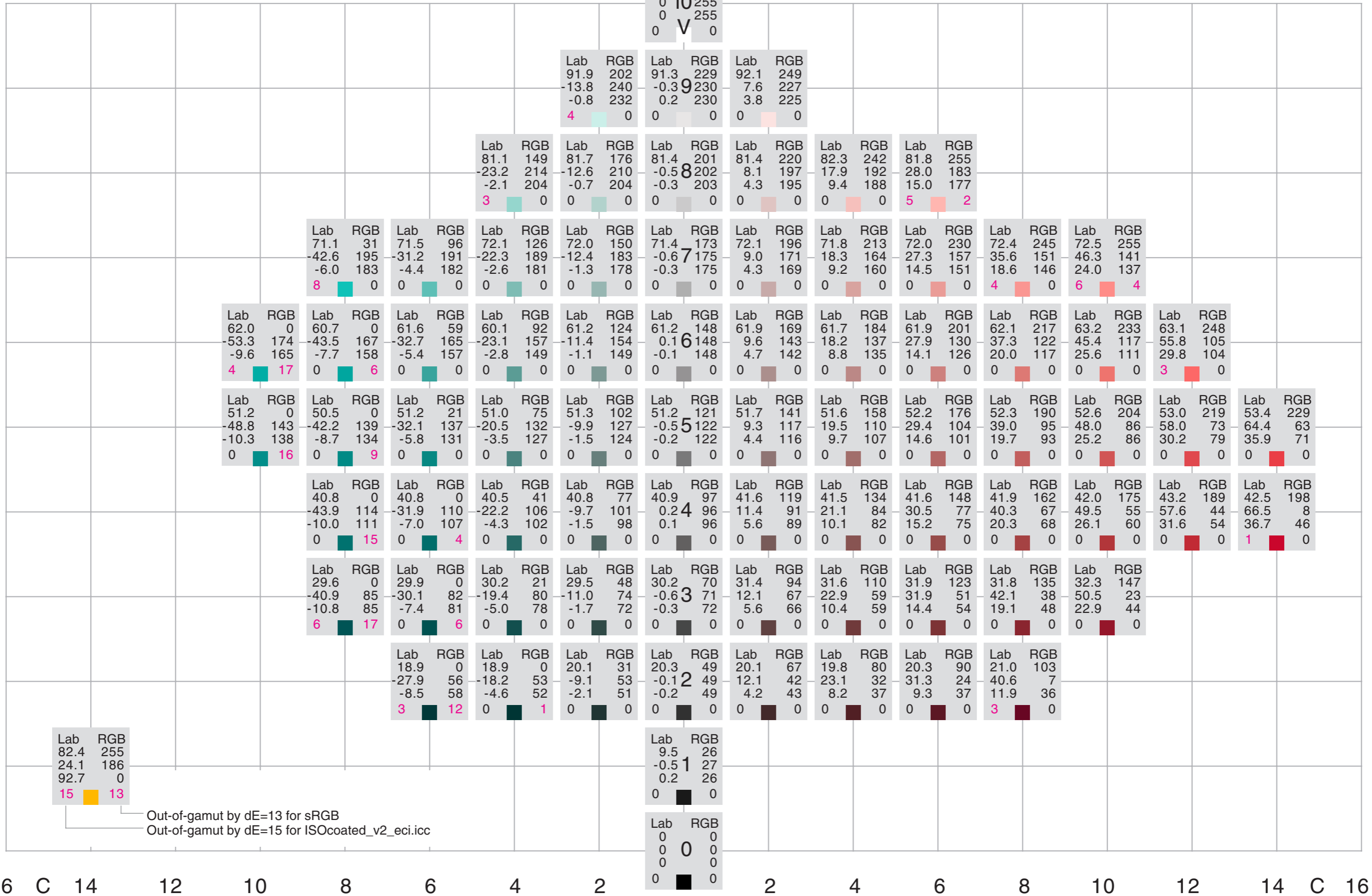
**Patched by measured data**

10YR	5/2
10YR	5/4
10B	2/4
7.5Y	8/10
5P	5/10



180° 5BG

5R 0°

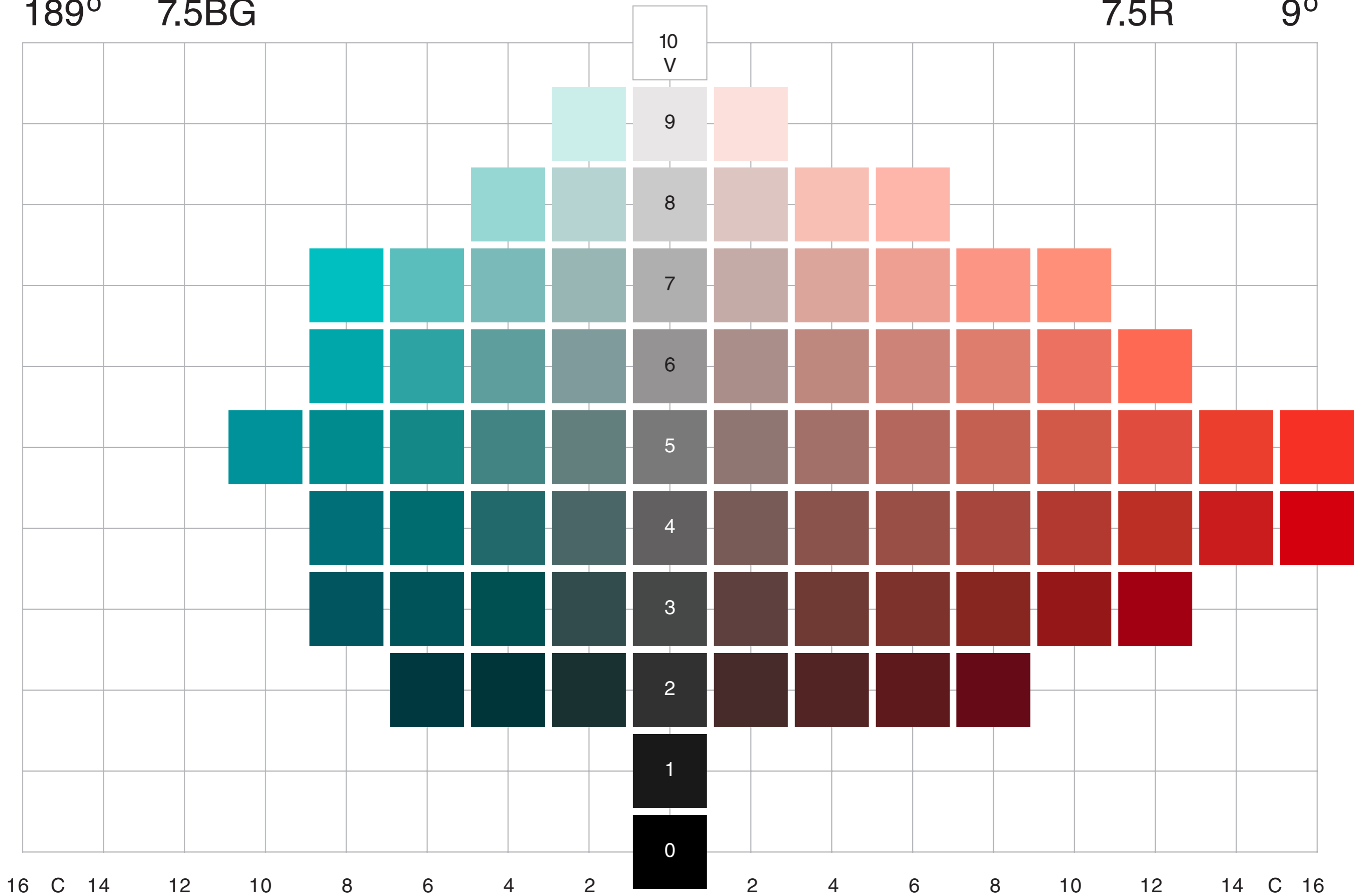


189°

7.5BG

7.5R

9°



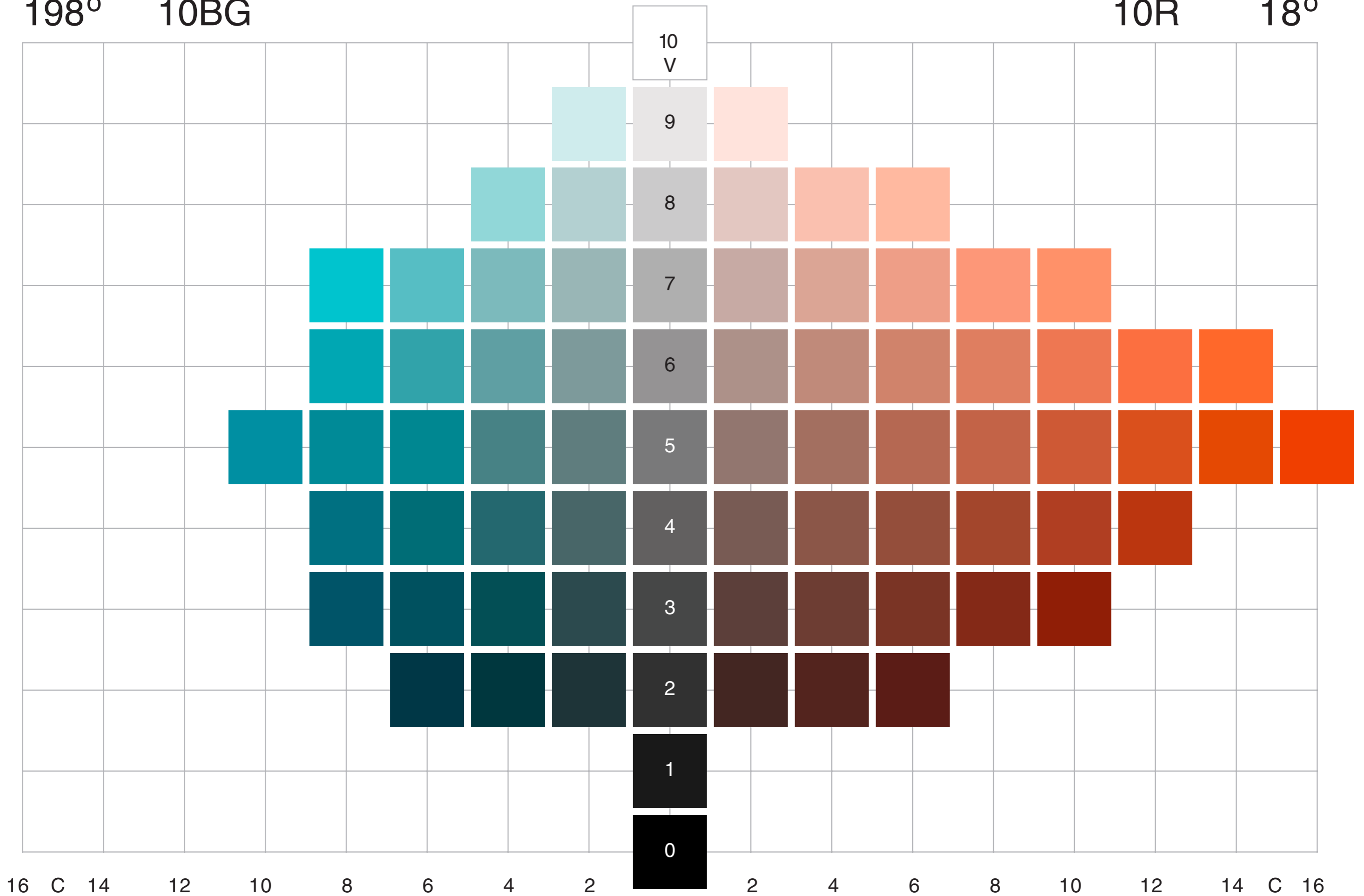


198°

10BG

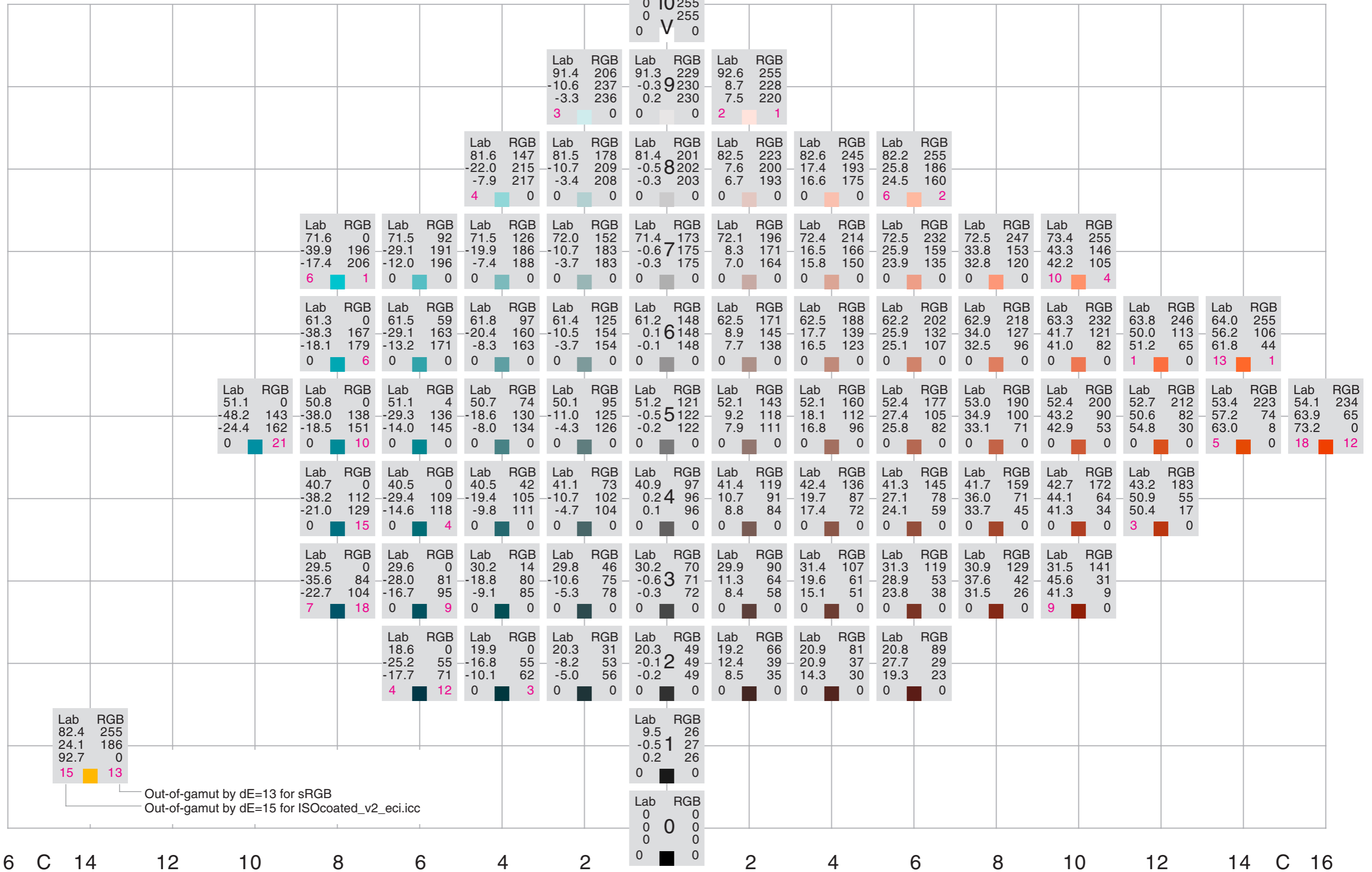
10R

18°



198° 10BG

10R 18°



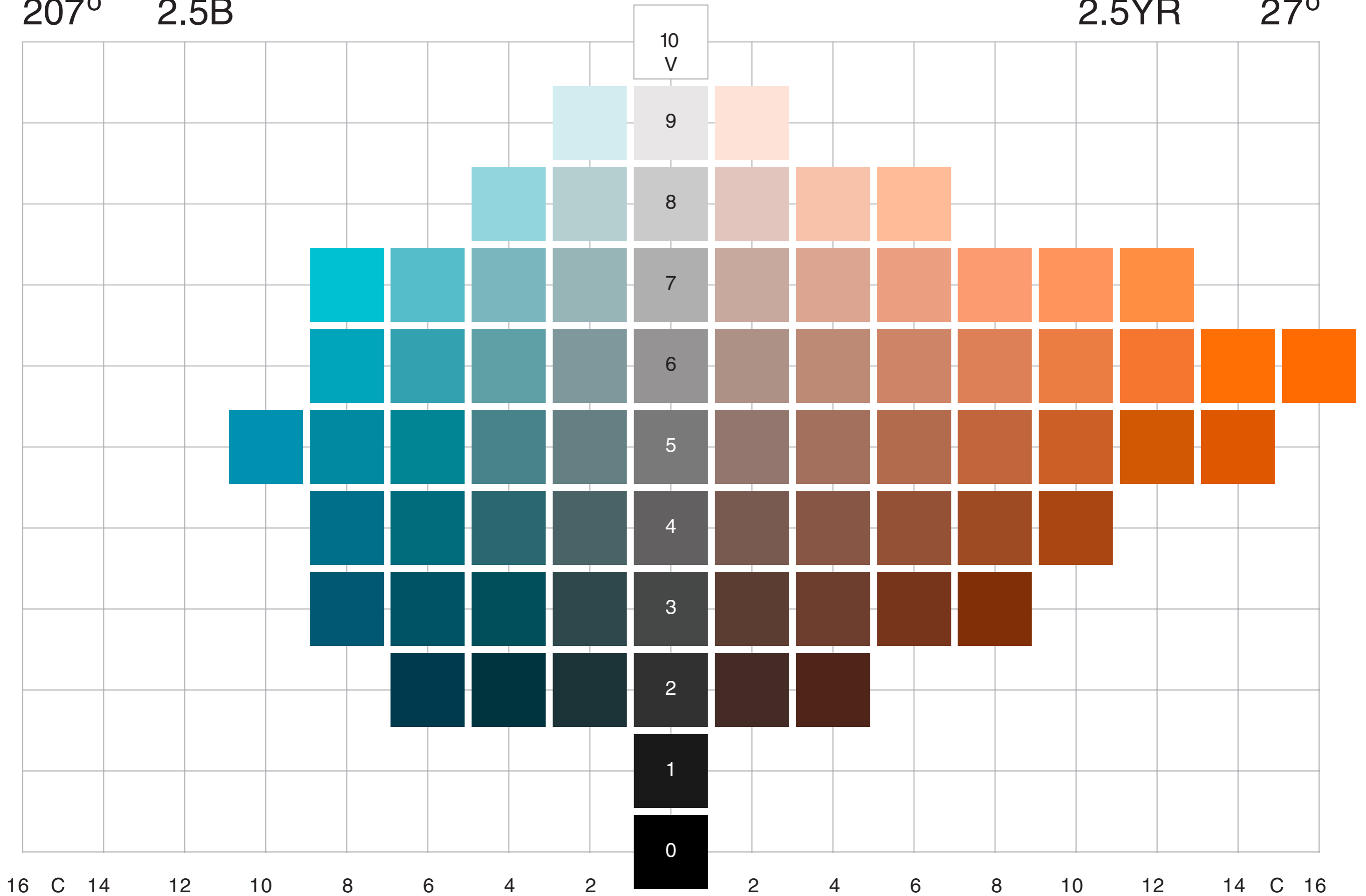


207°

2.5B

2.5YR

27°

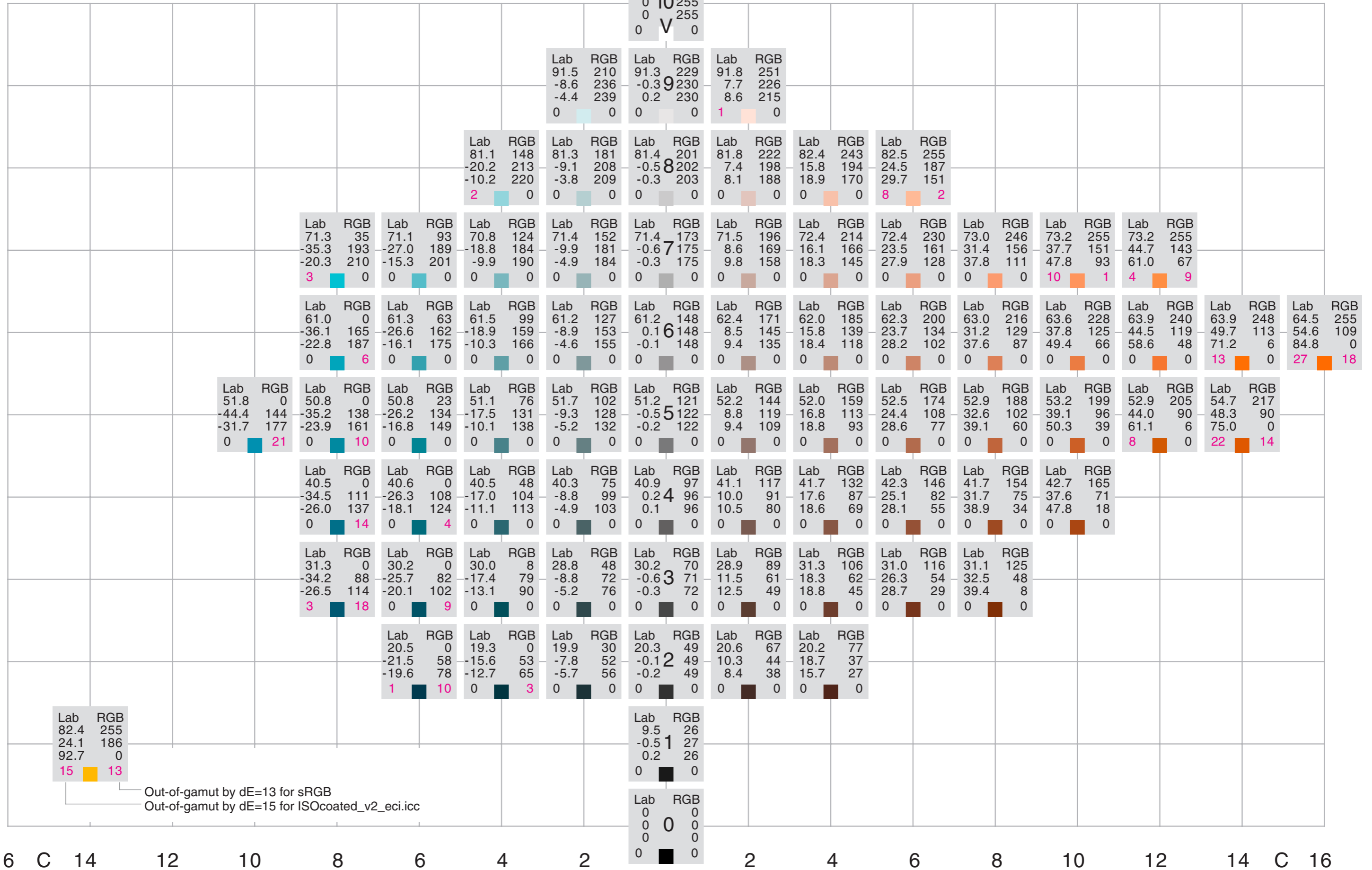


207°

2.5B

2.5YR

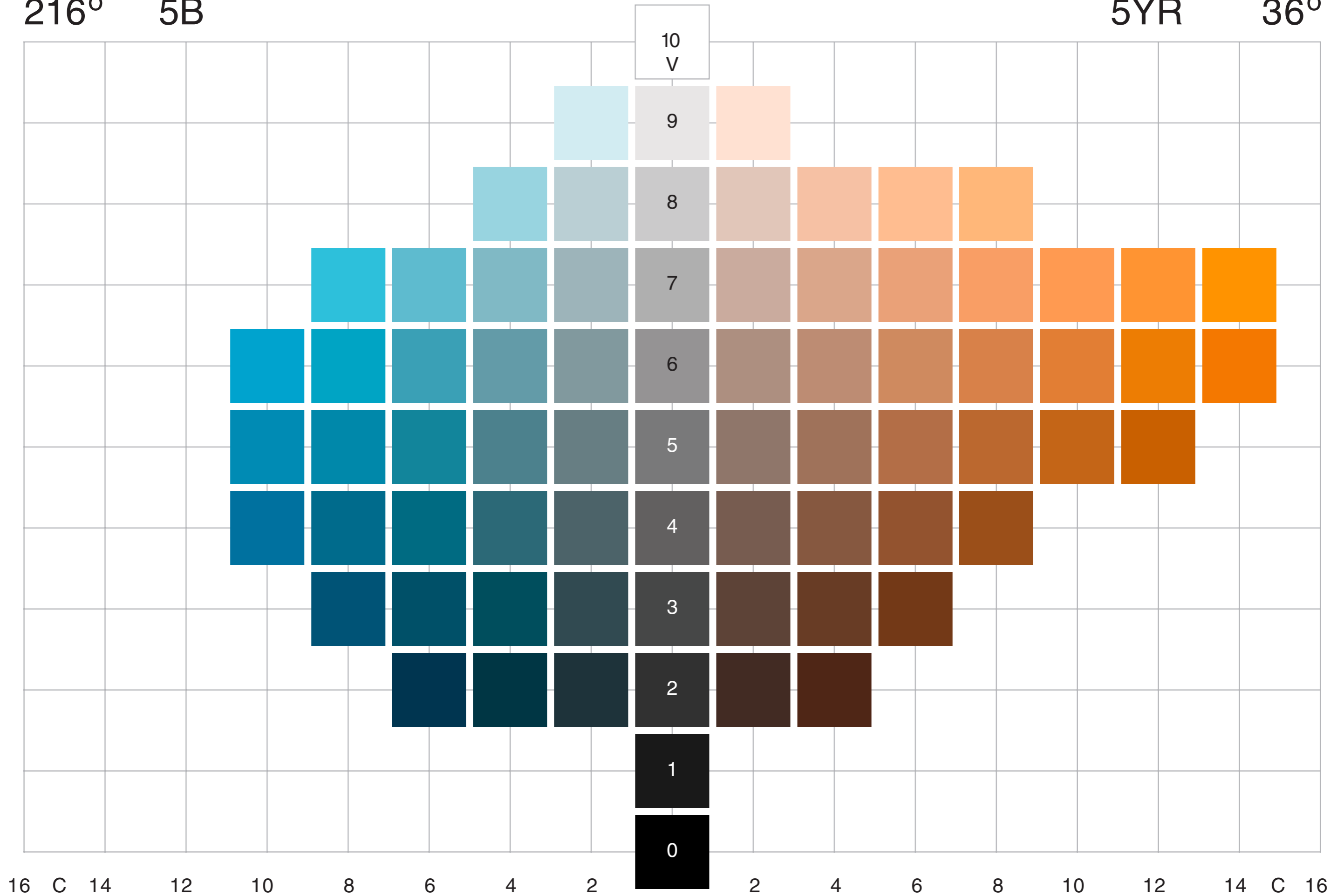
27°



16 C 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 C 16

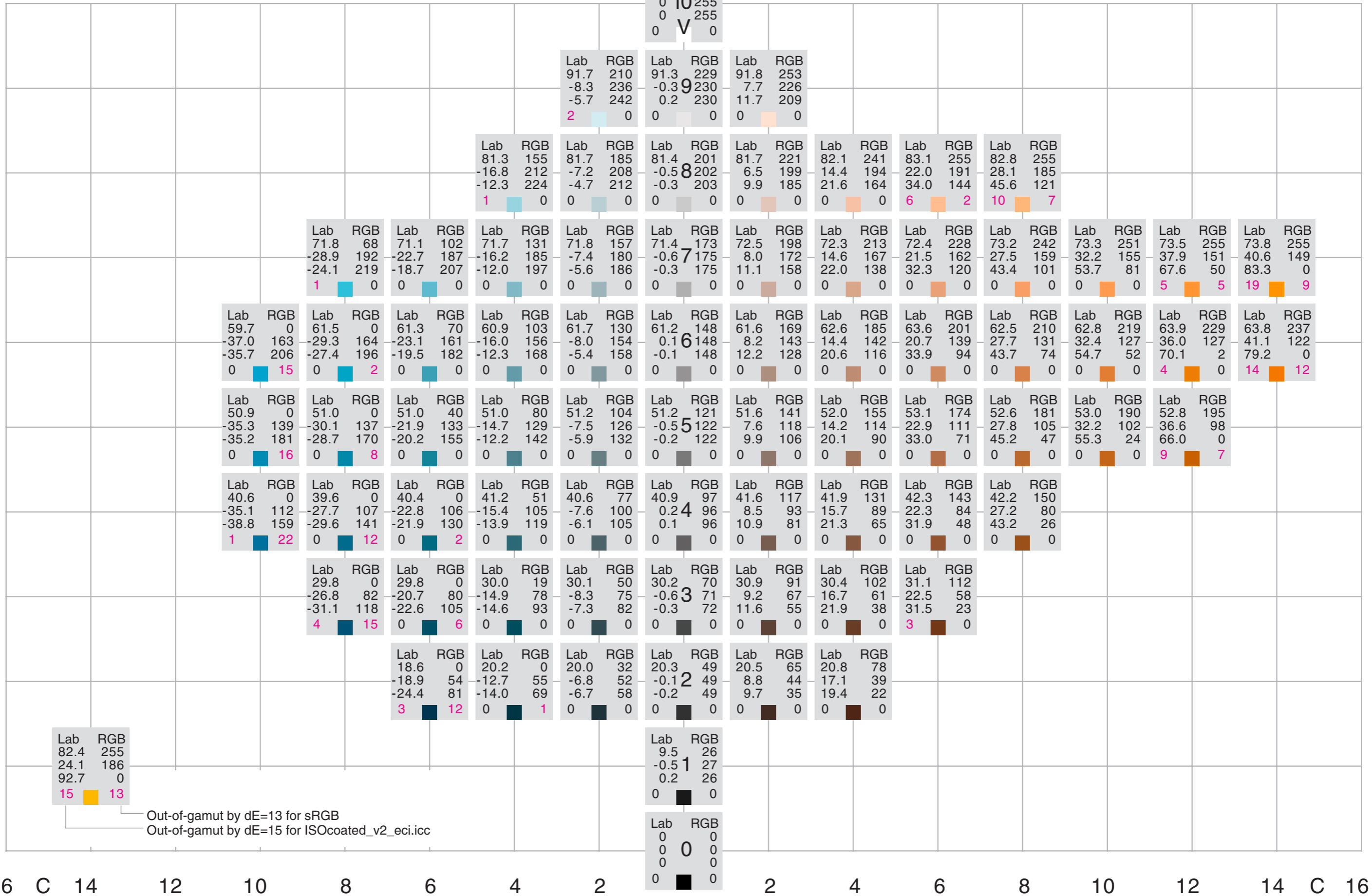
216° 5B

5YR 36°



216° 5B

5YR 36°

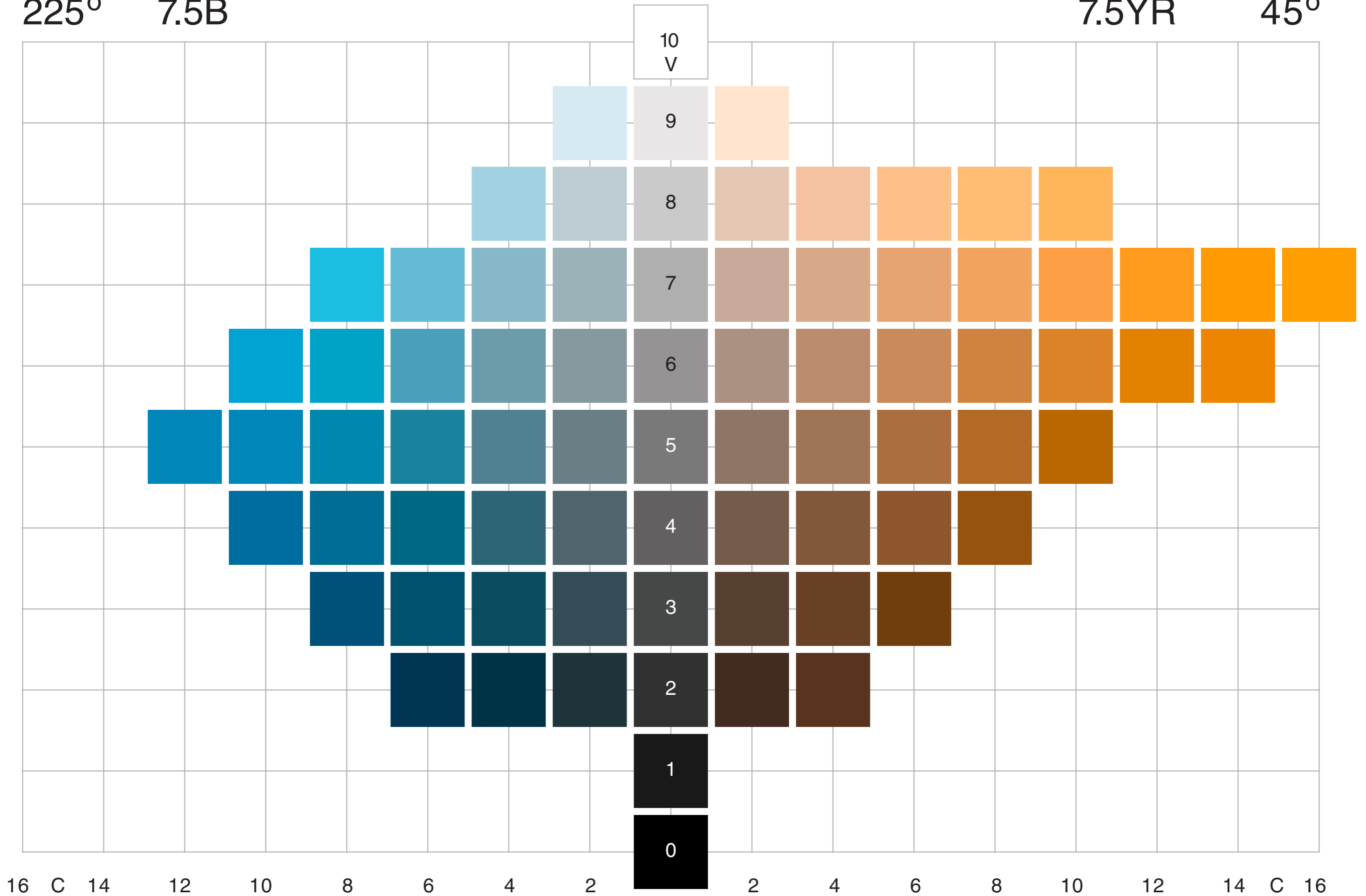


225°

7.5B

7.5YR

45°

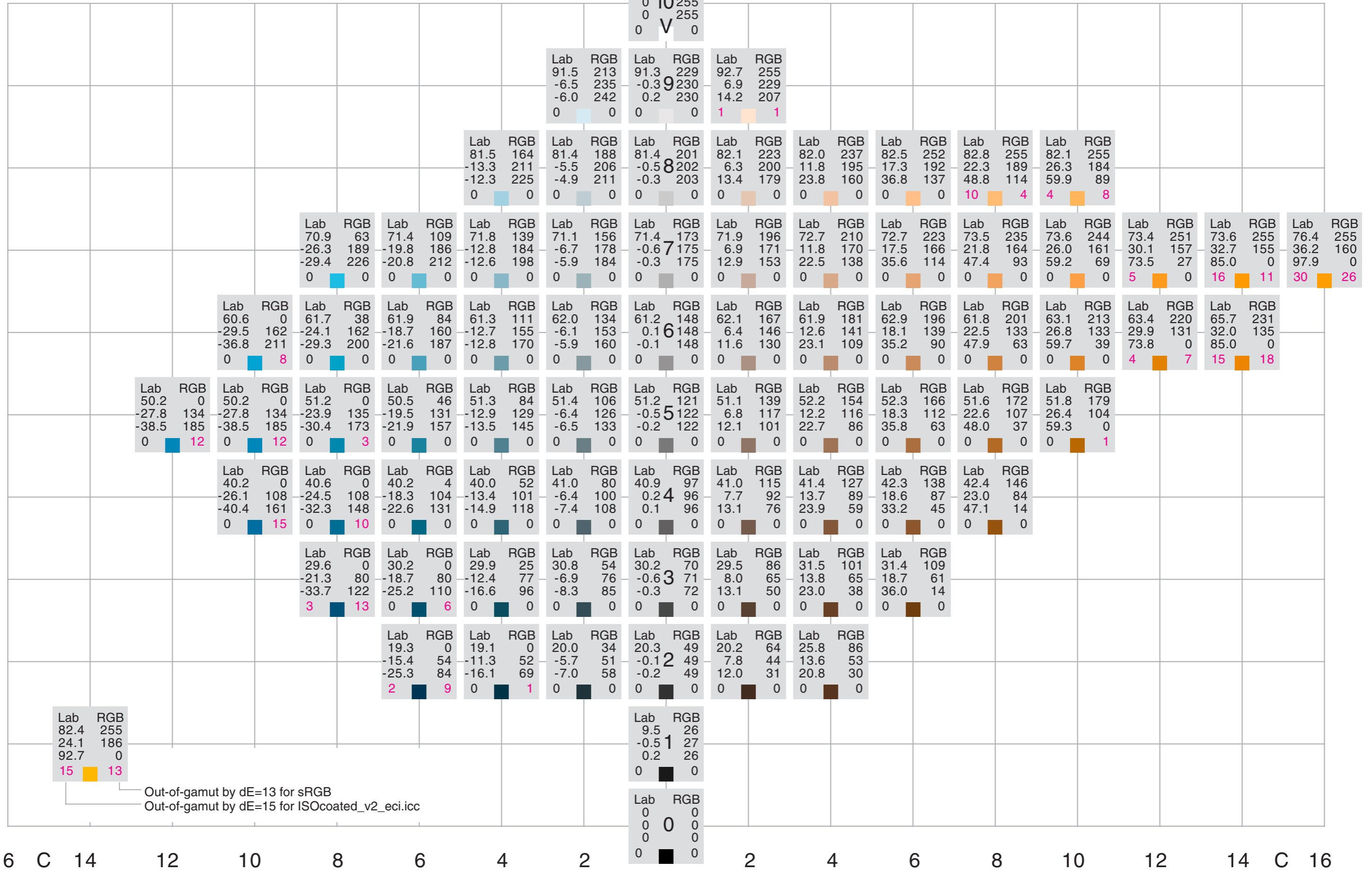


225°

7.5B

7.5YR

45°

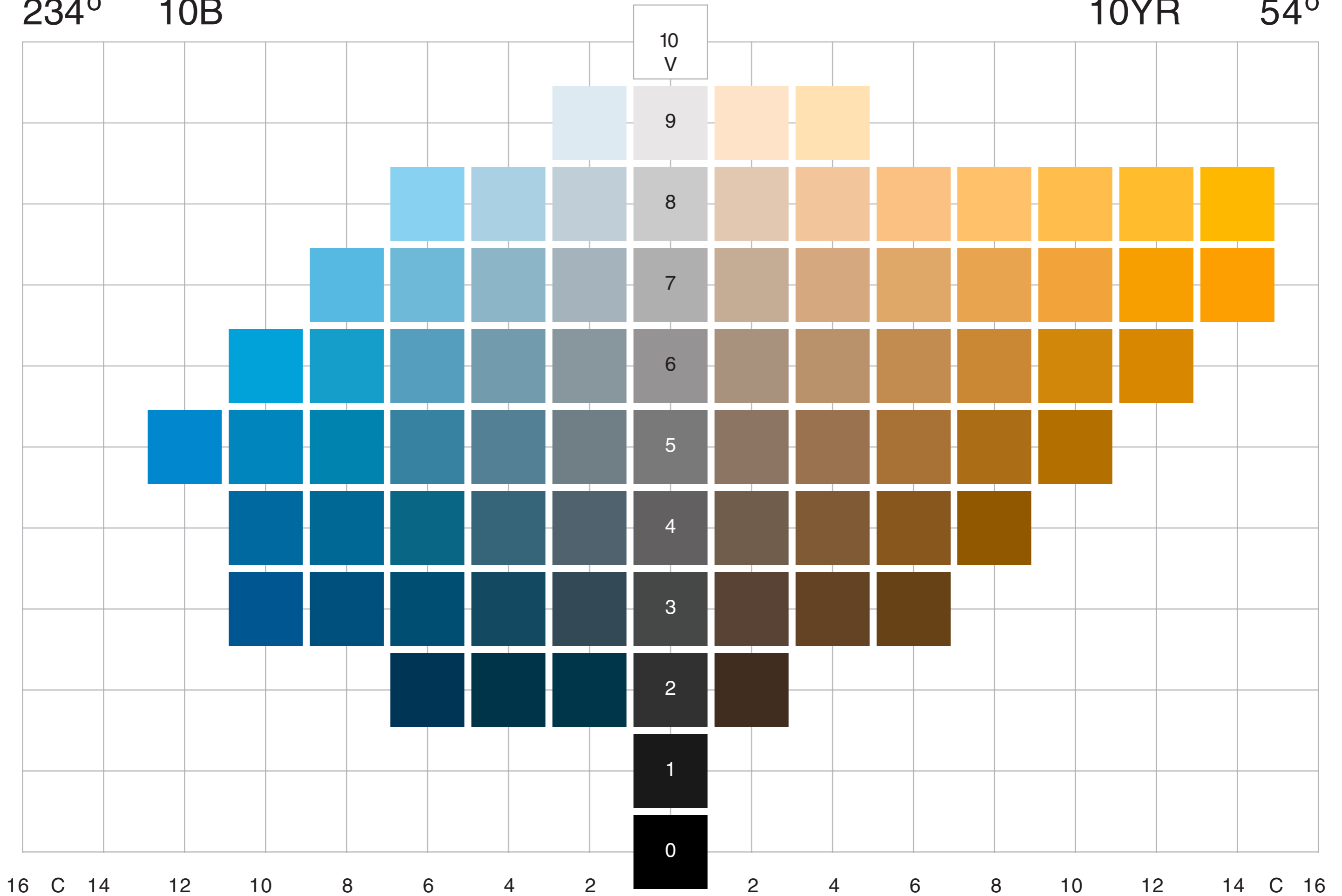


234°

10B

10YR

54°

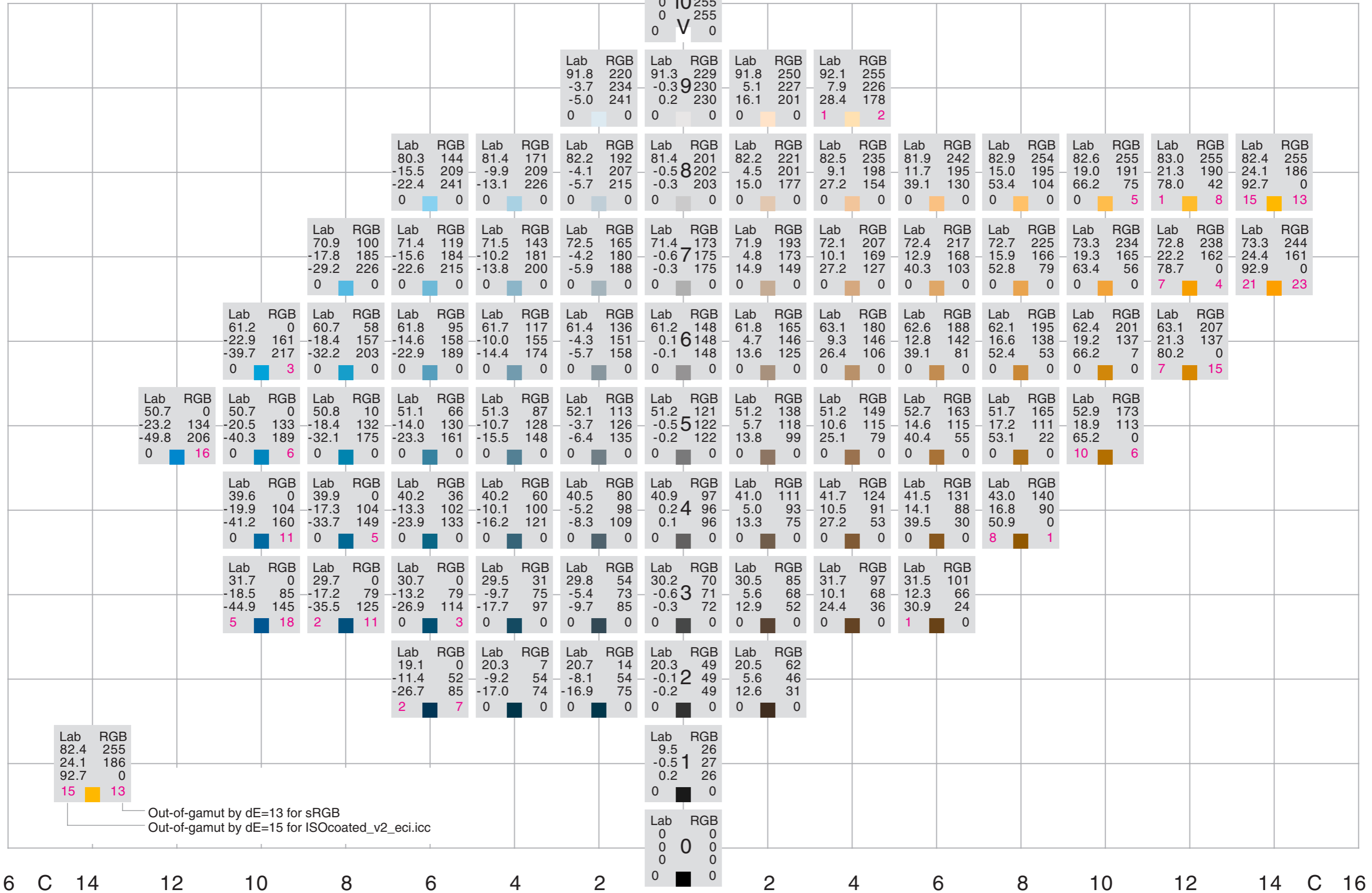


234°

10B

10YR

54°



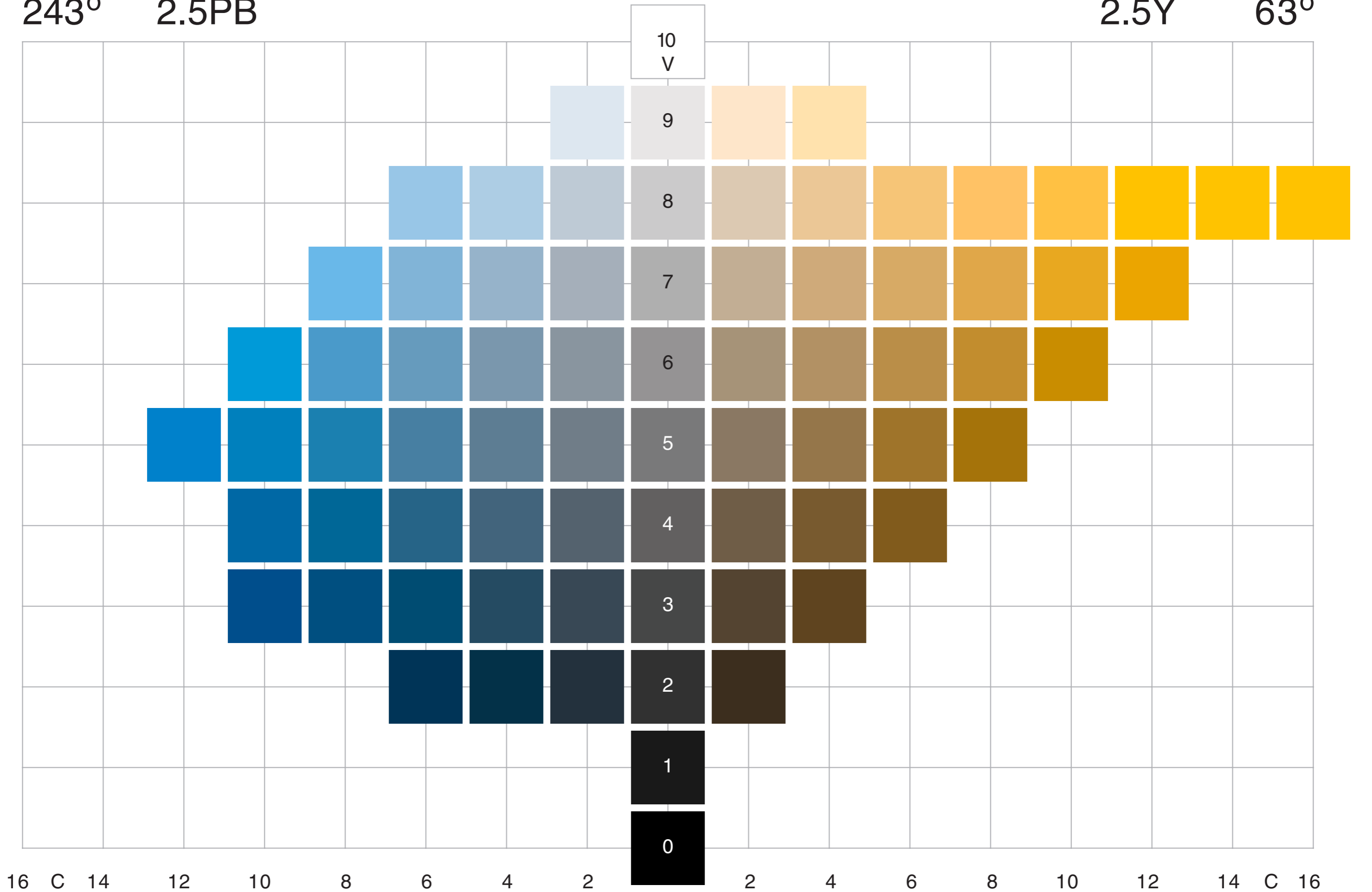


243°

2.5PB

2.5Y

63°



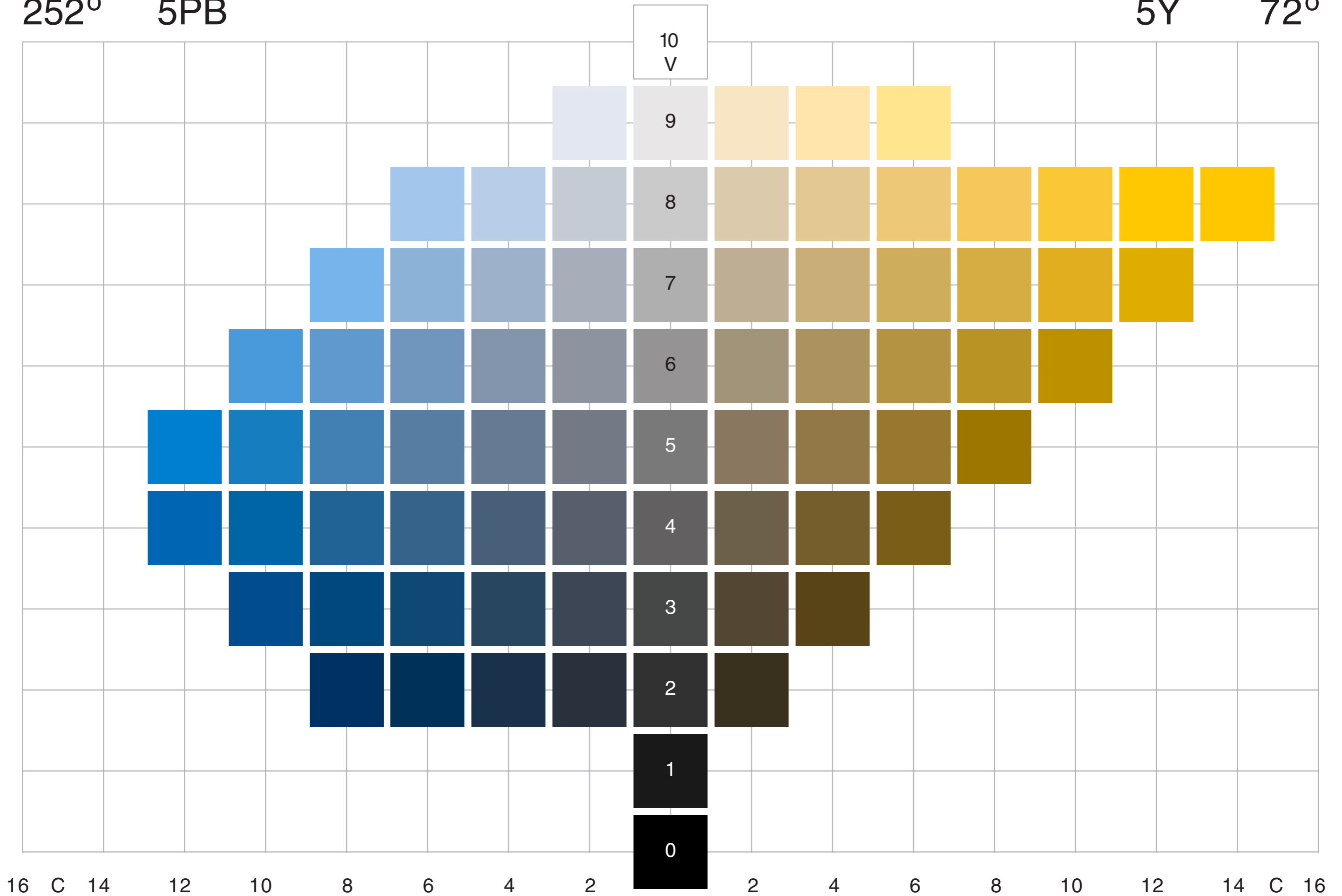


252°

5PB

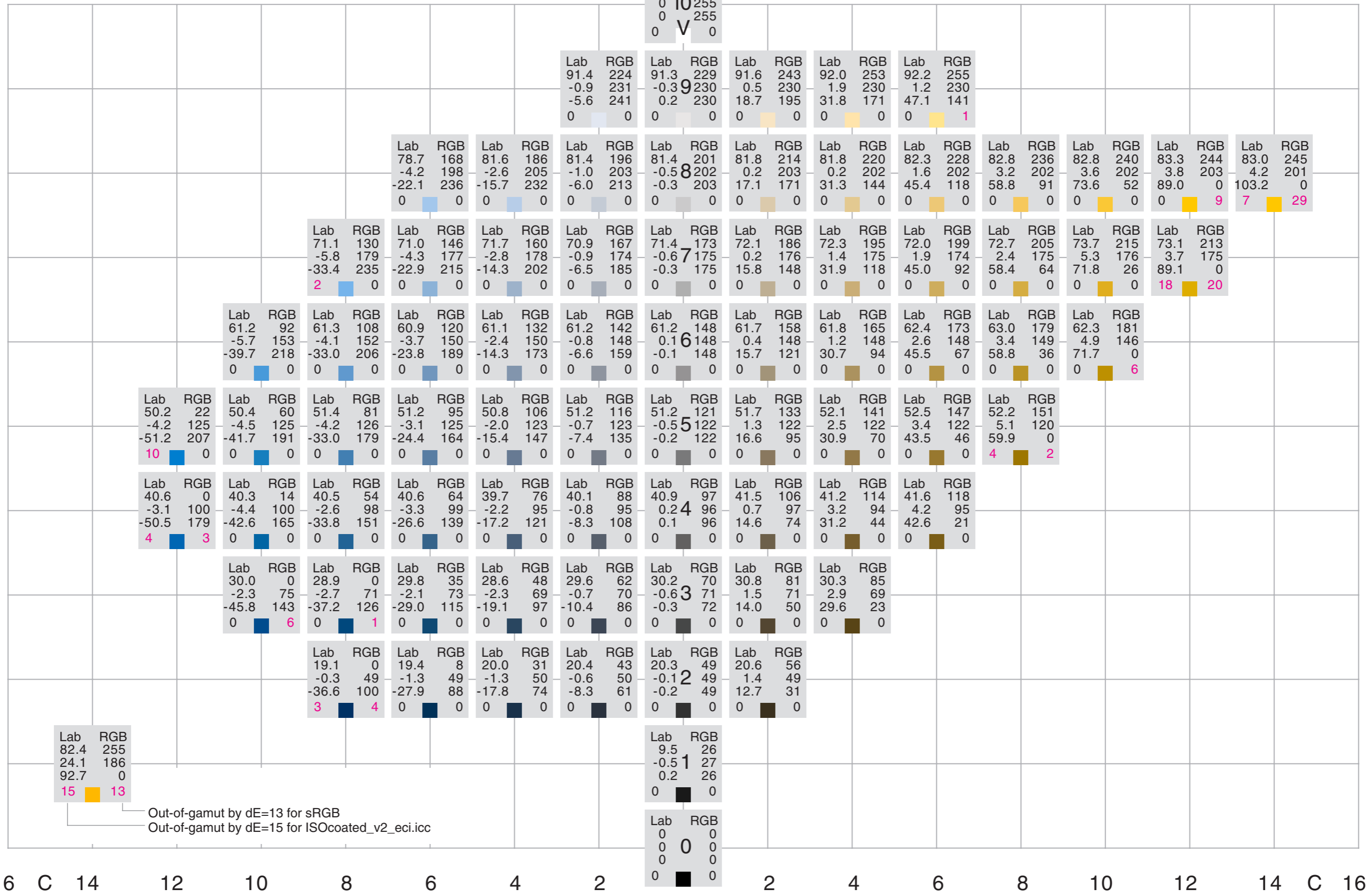
5Y

72°



252° 5PB

5Y 72°

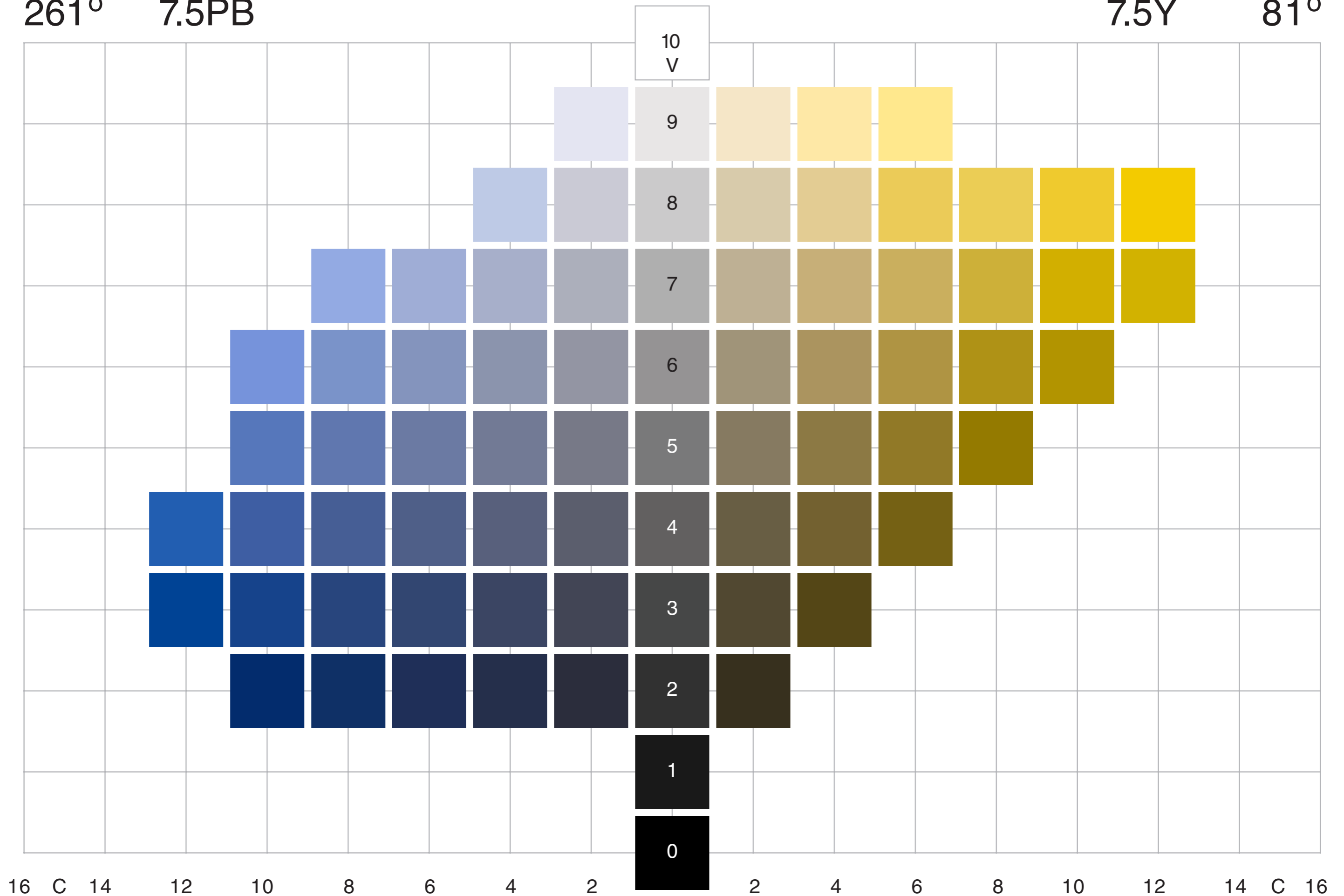


261°

7.5PB

7.5Y

81°



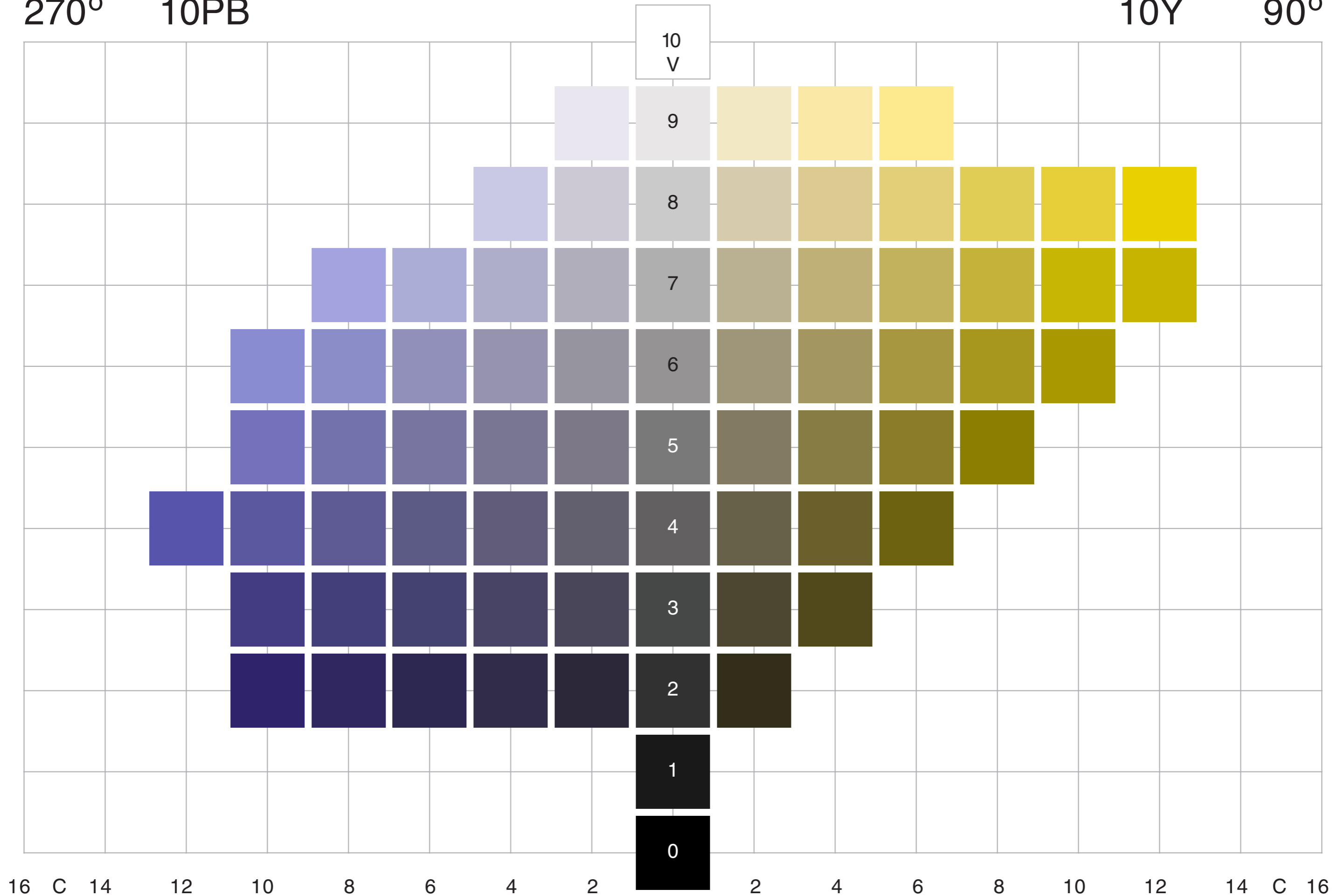


270°

10PB

10Y

90°





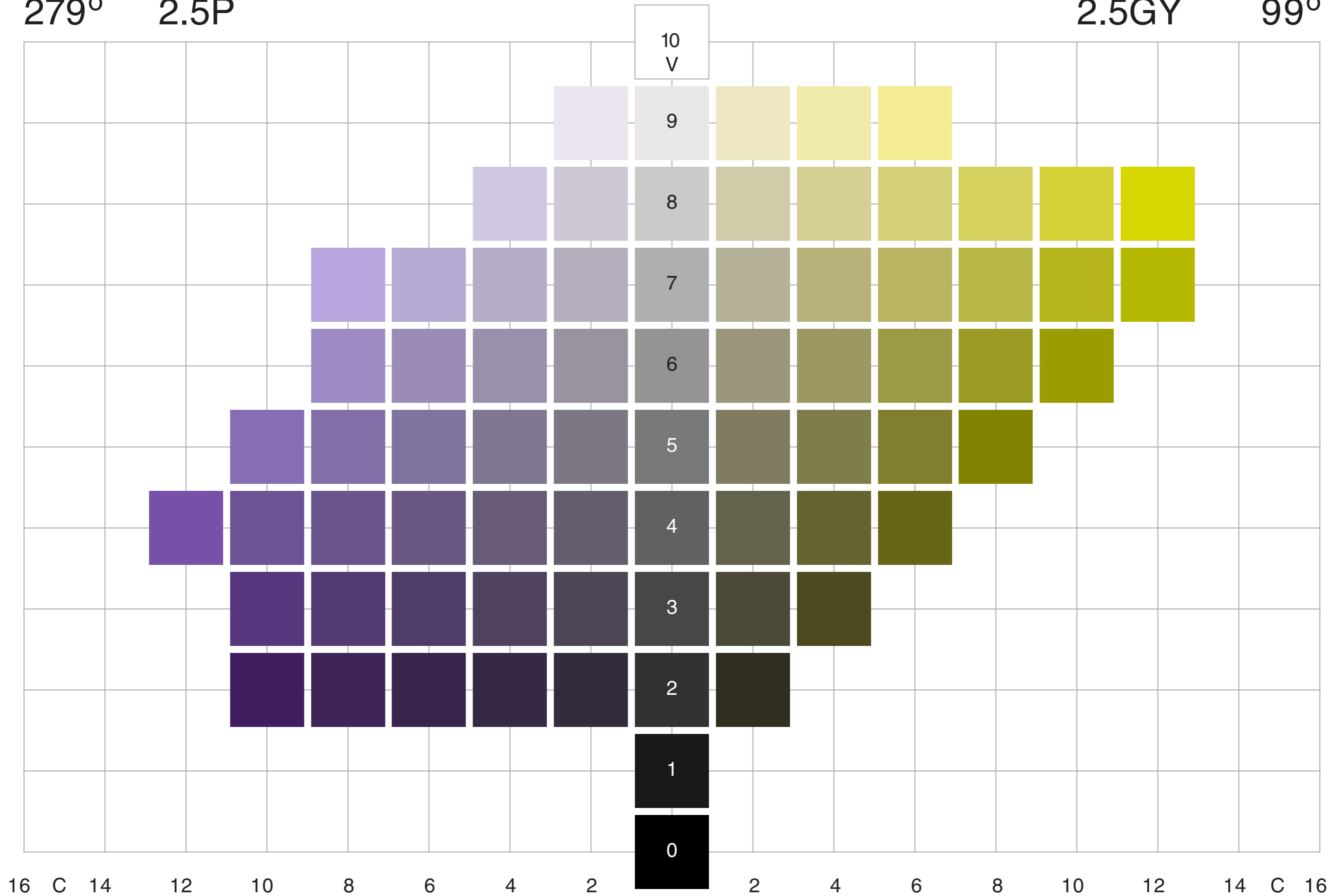


279°

2.5P

2.5GY

99°

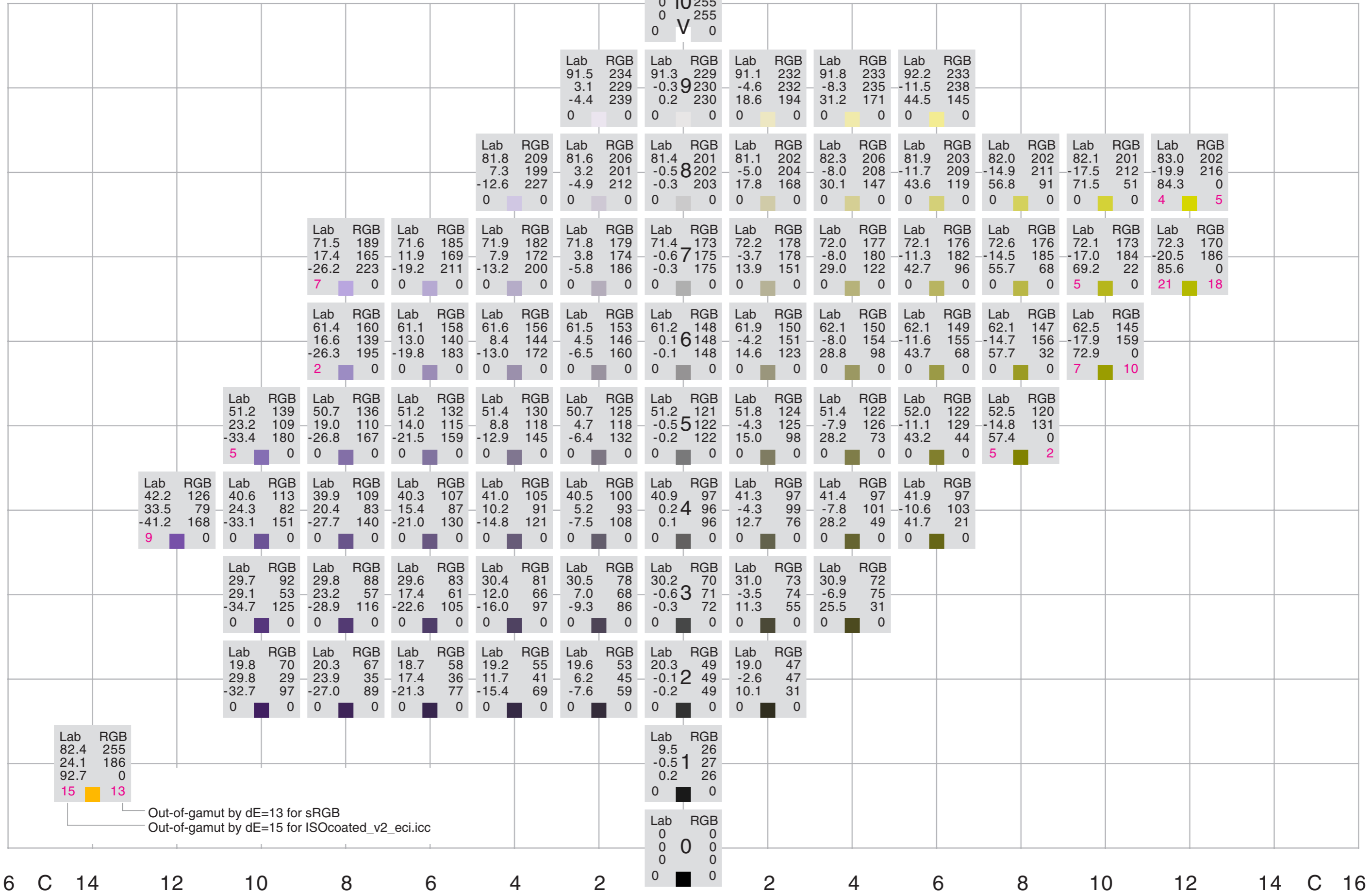


279°

2.5P

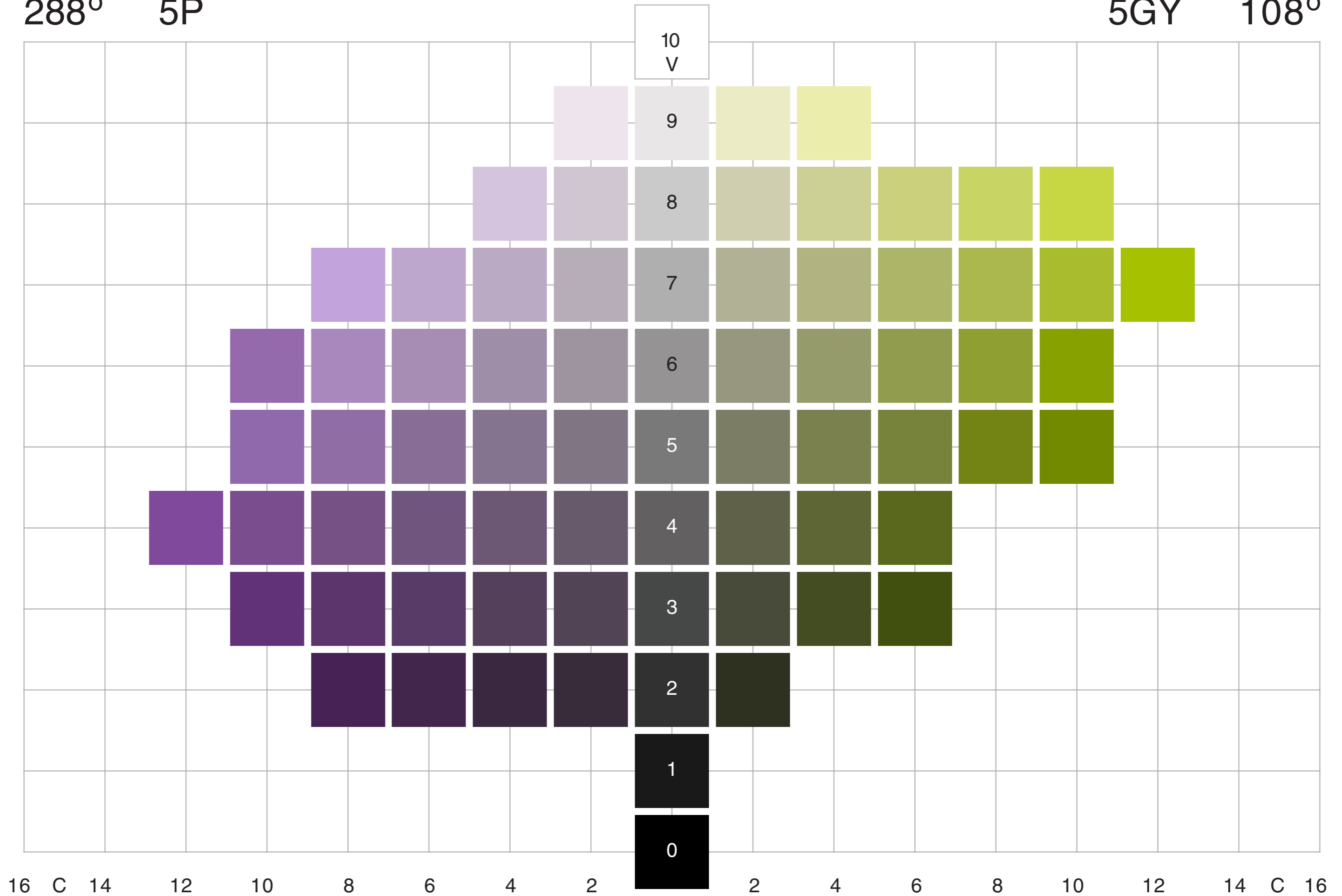
2.5GY

99°



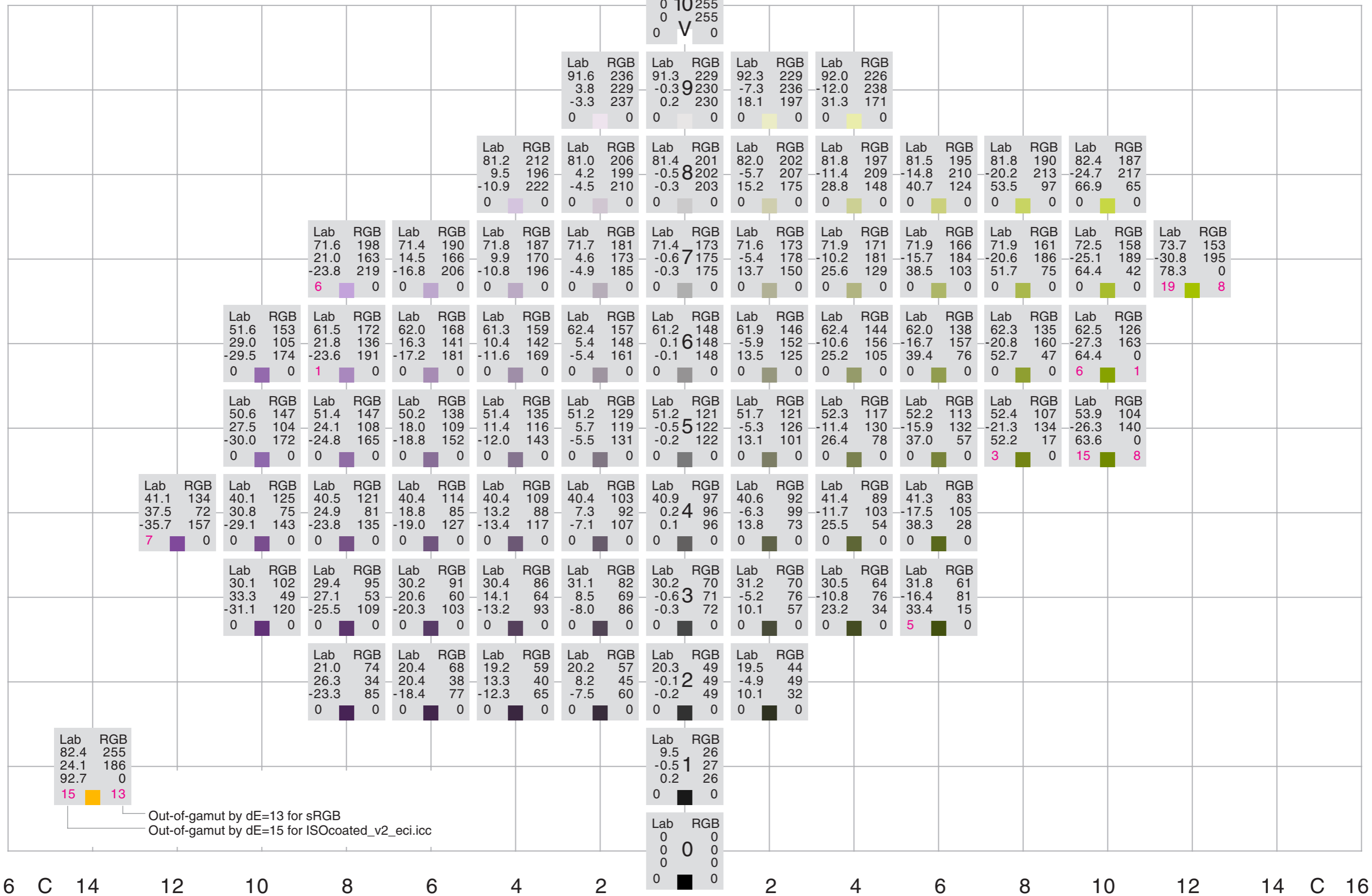
288° 5P

5GY 108°



288° 5P

5GY 108°



Lab RGB  
82.4 255  
24.1 186  
92.7 0  
15 13

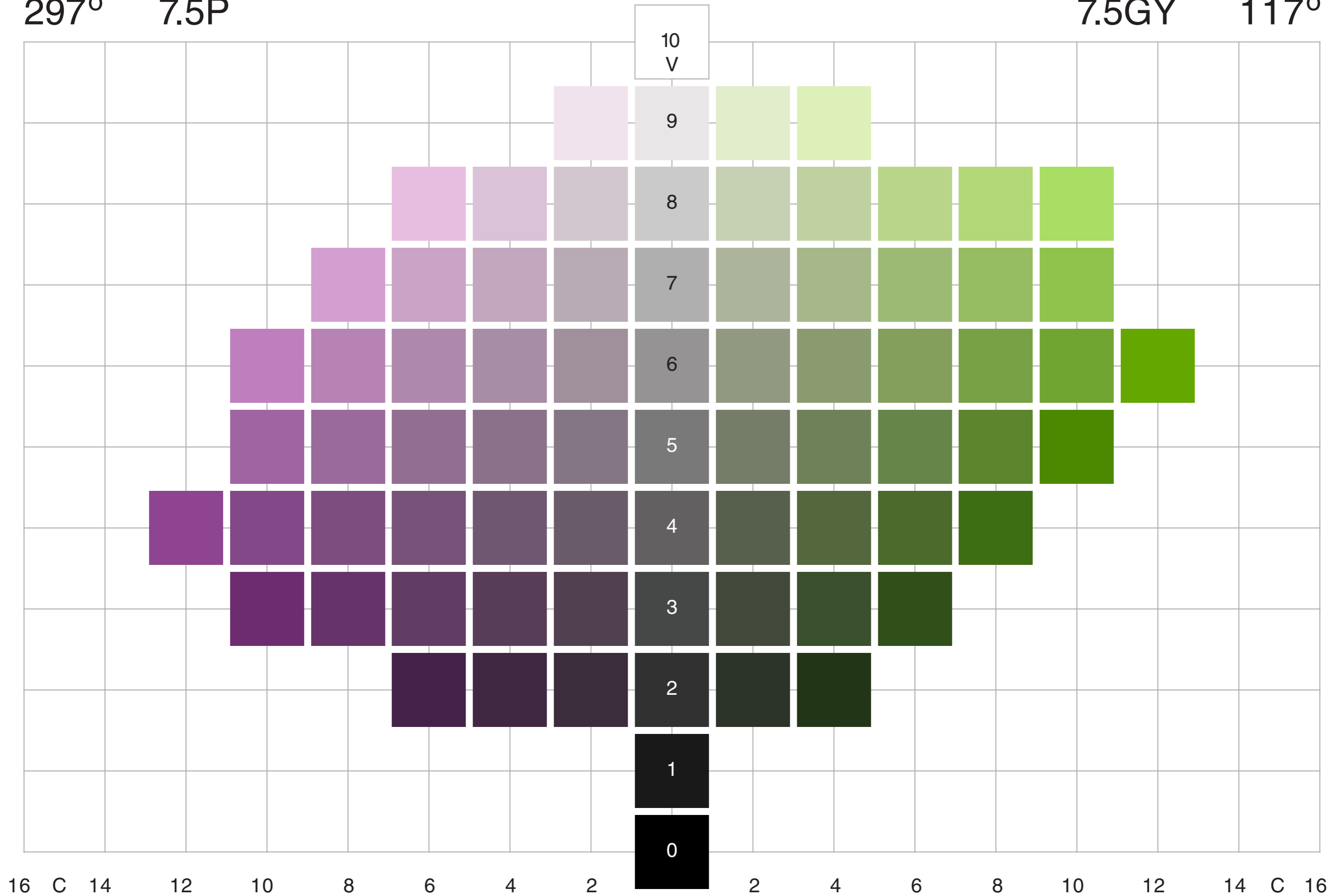
Out-of-gamut by dE=13 for sRGB  
Out-of-gamut by dE=15 for ISOcoated\_v2\_eci.icc

297°

7.5P

7.5GY

117°



16 C 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 C 16

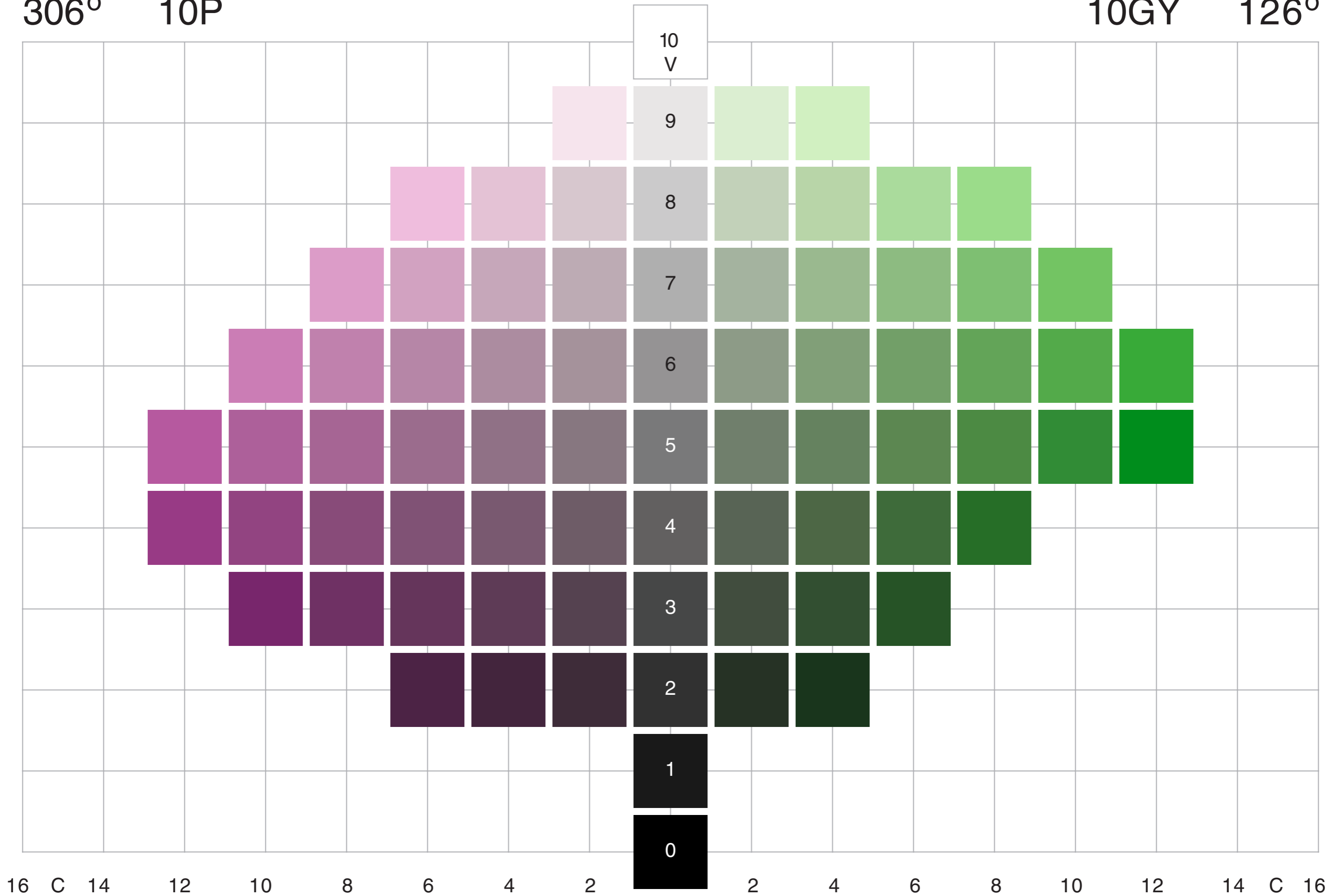


306°

10P

10GY

126°





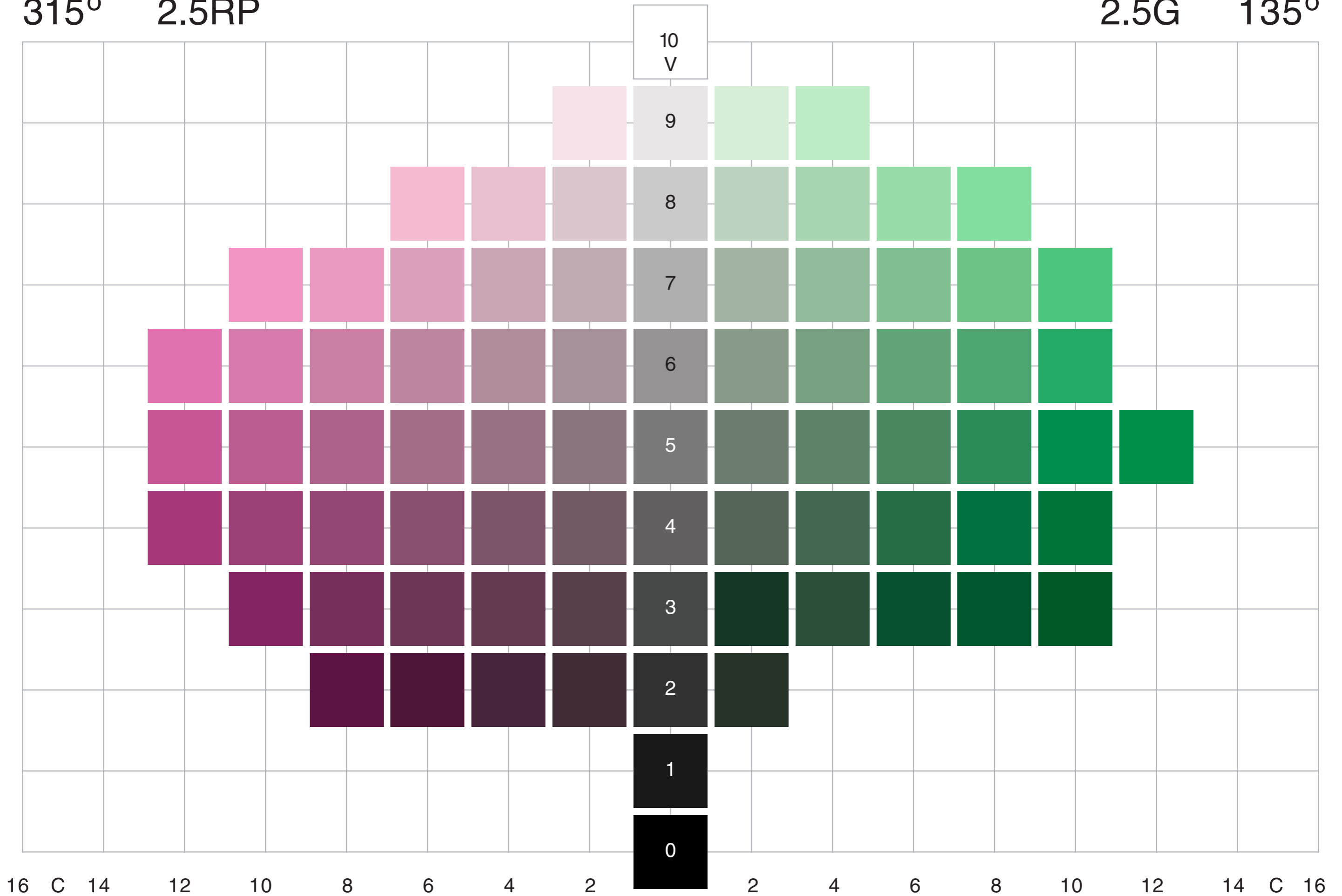


315°

2.5RP

2.5G

135°



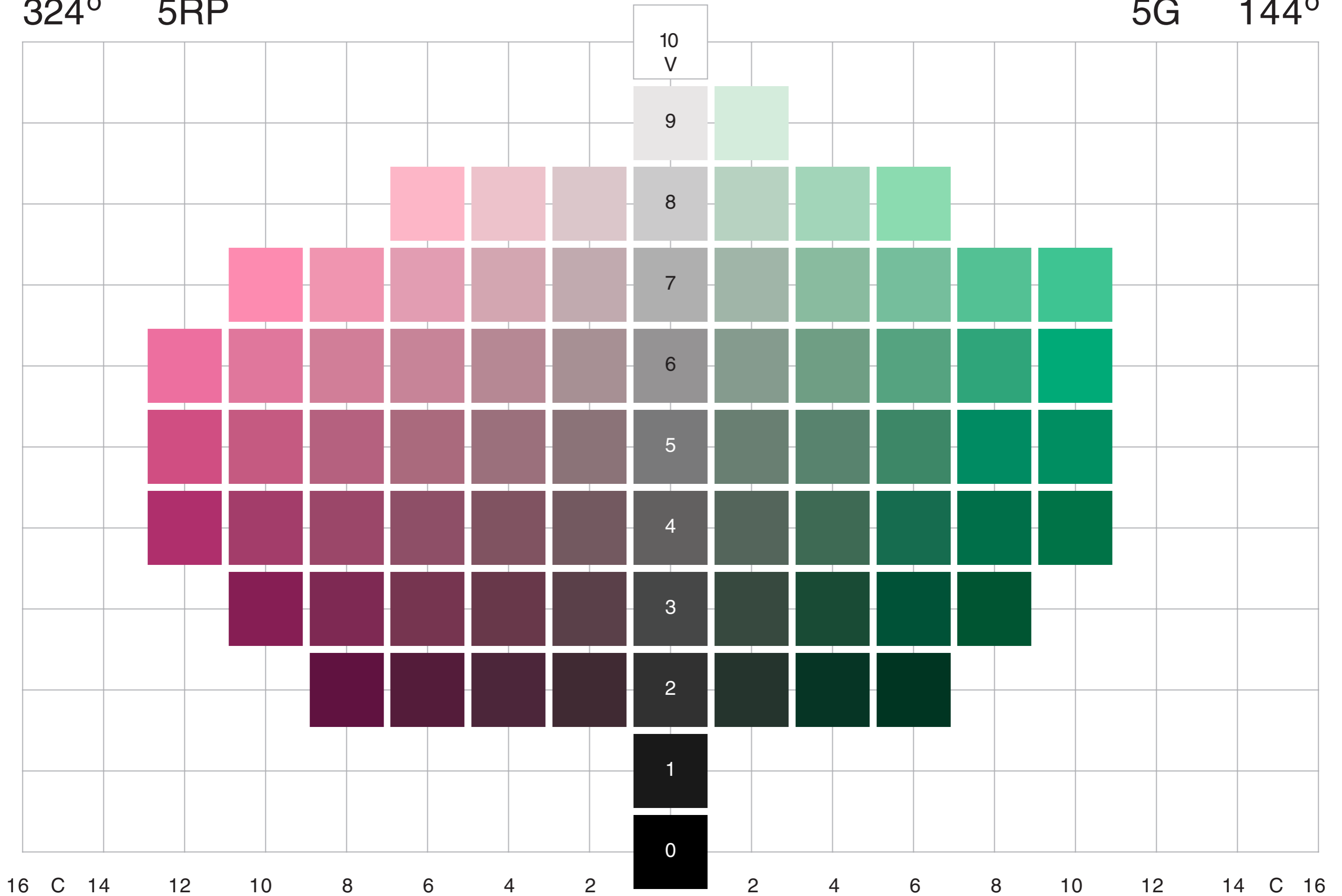


324°

5RP

5G

144°



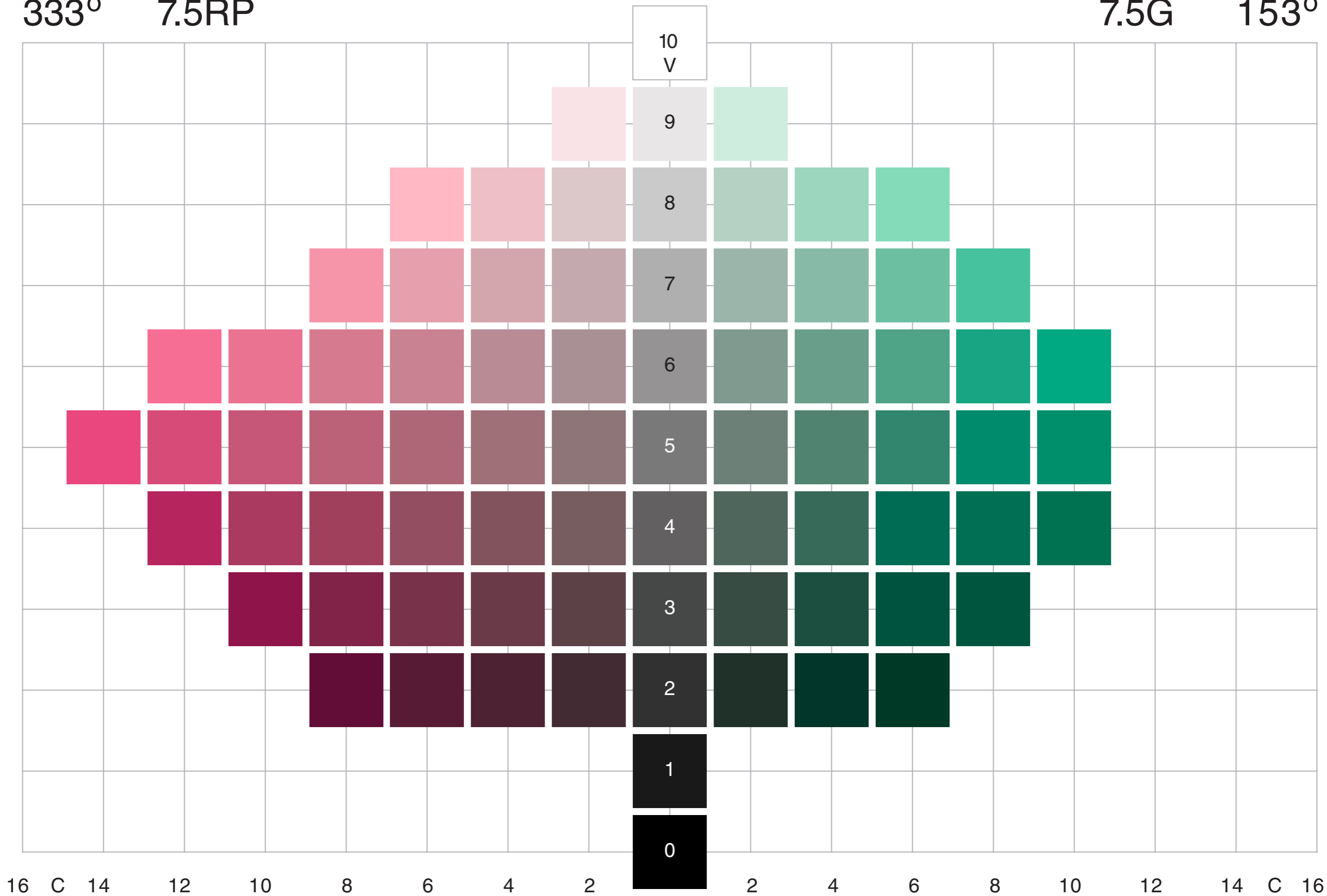


333°

7.5RP

7.5G

153°



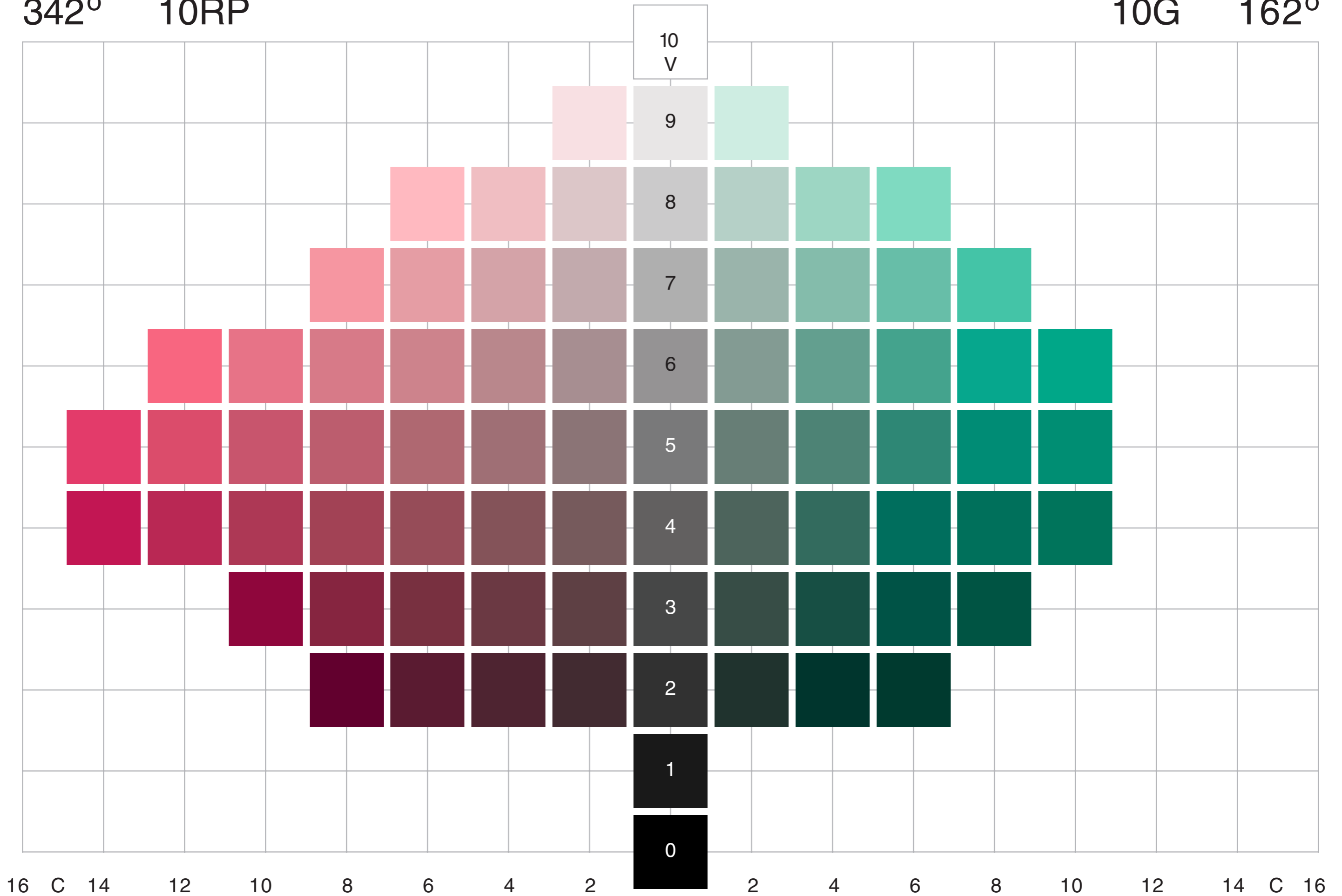


342°

10RP

10G

162°





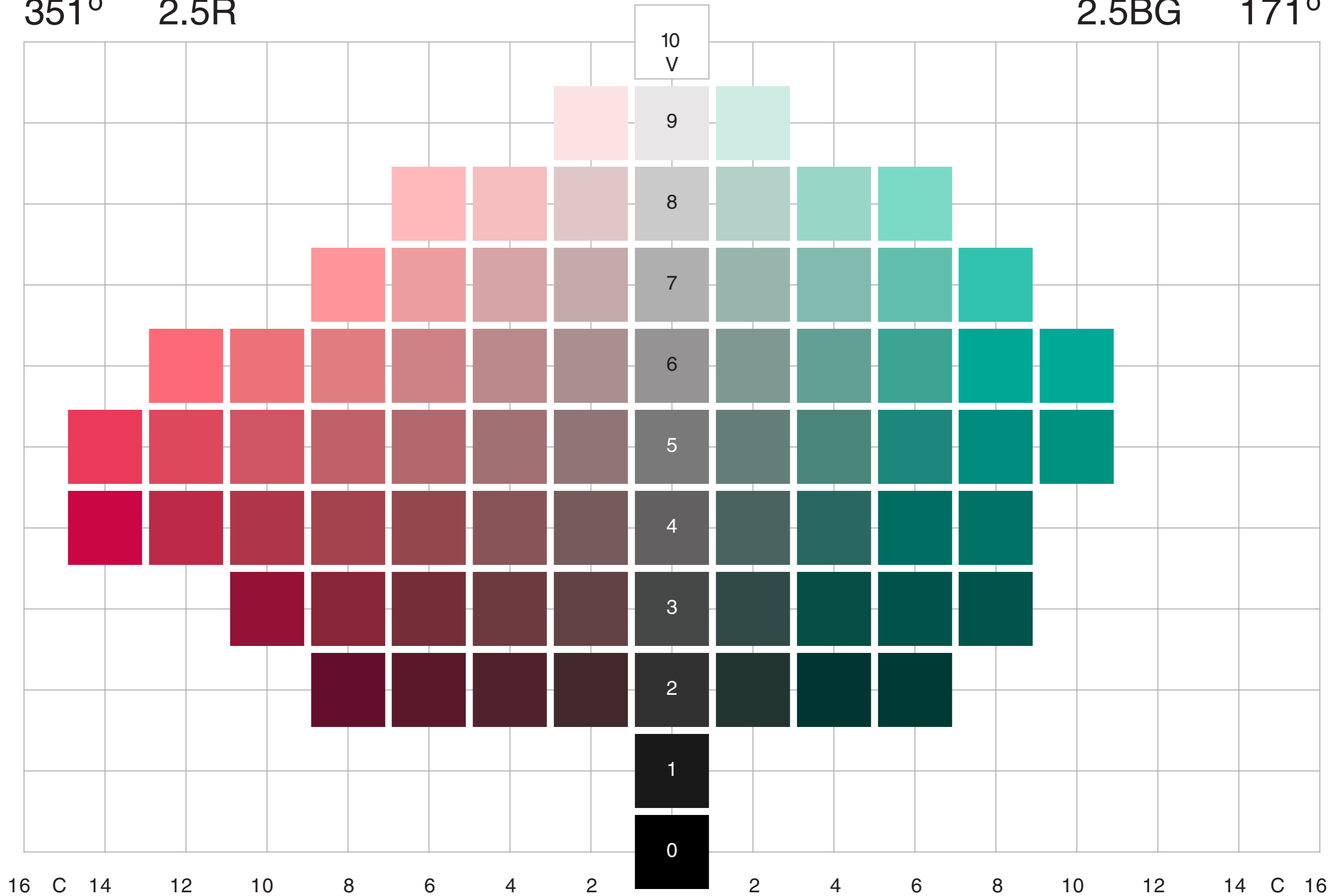


351°

2.5R

2.5BG

171°





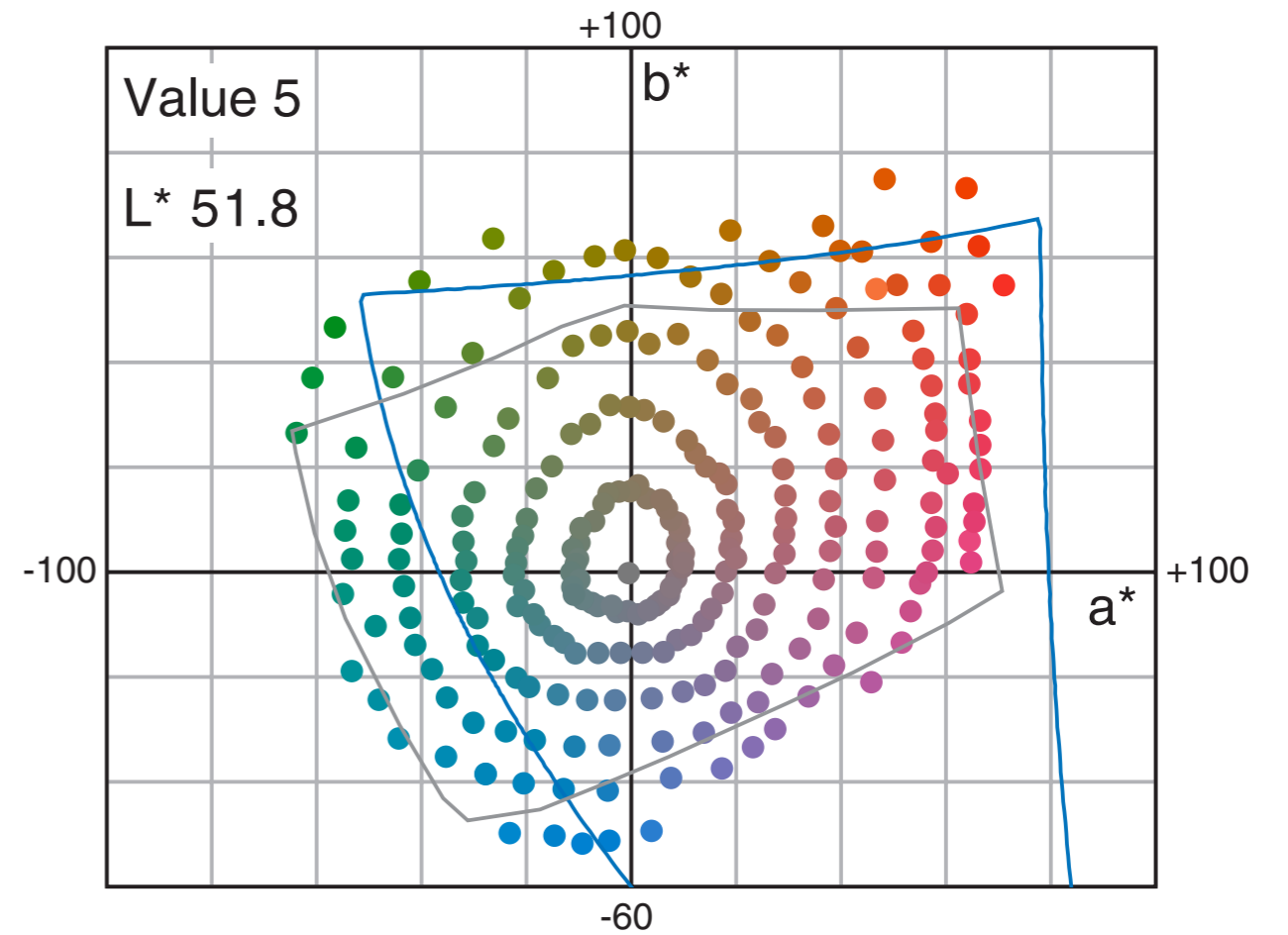
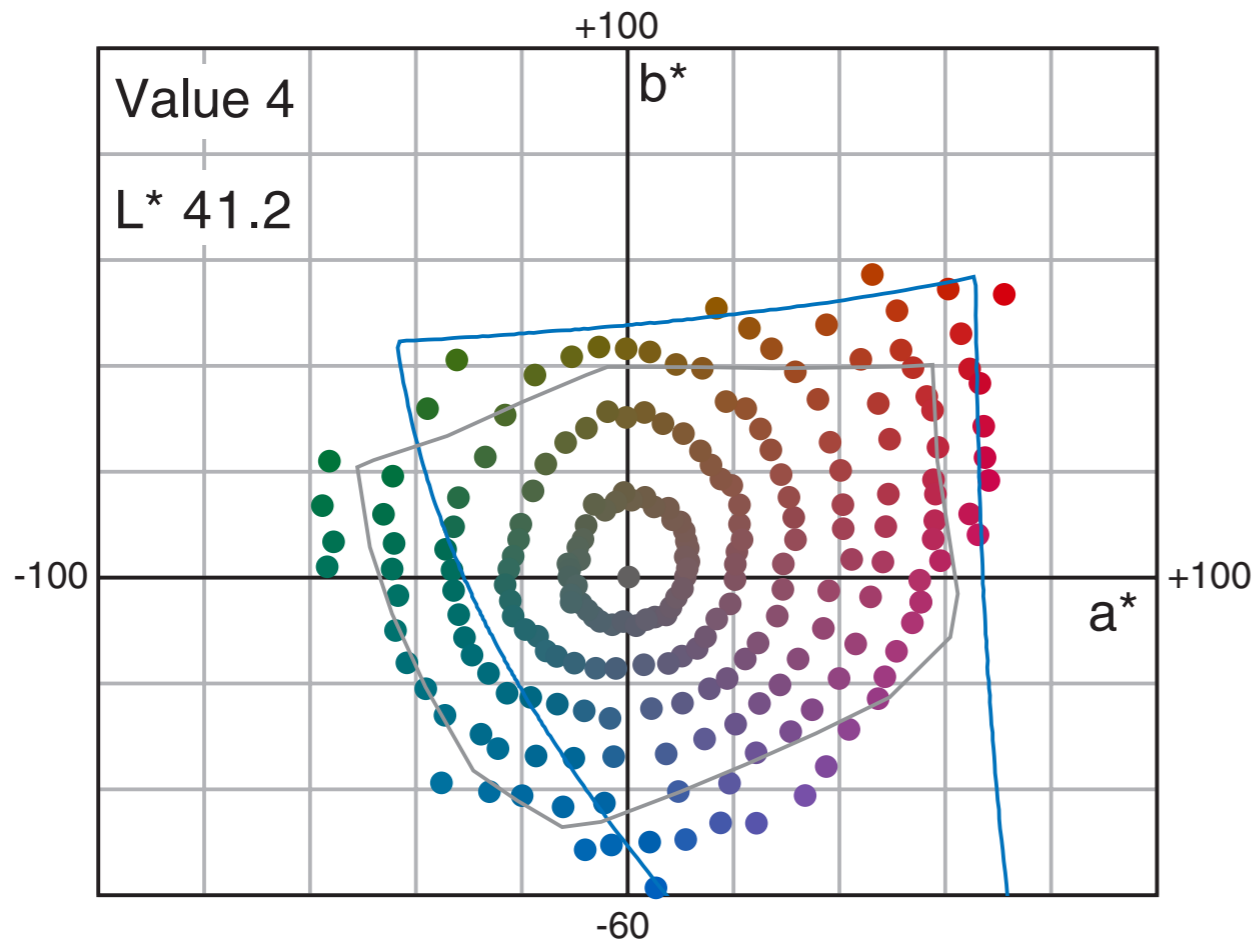
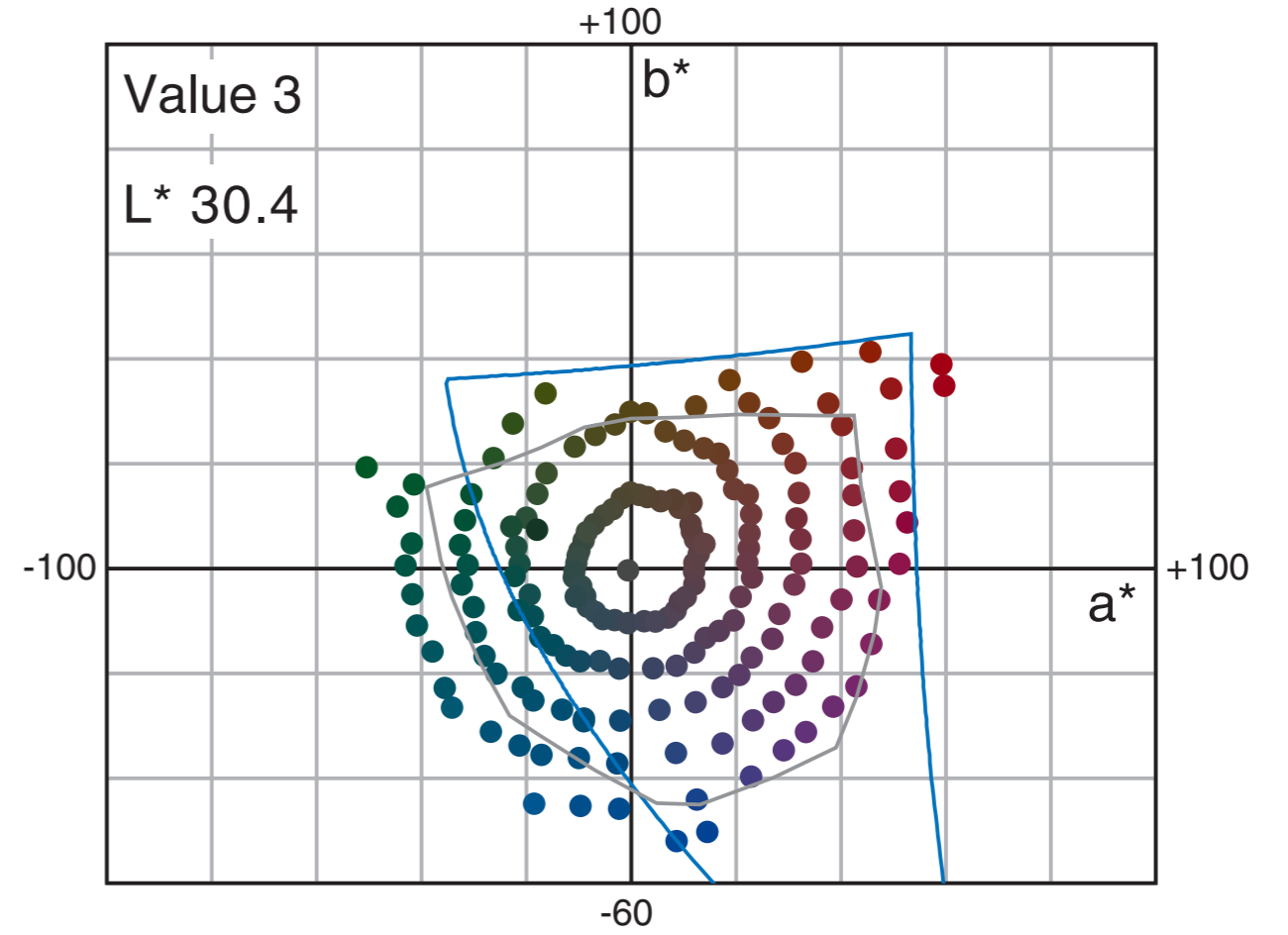
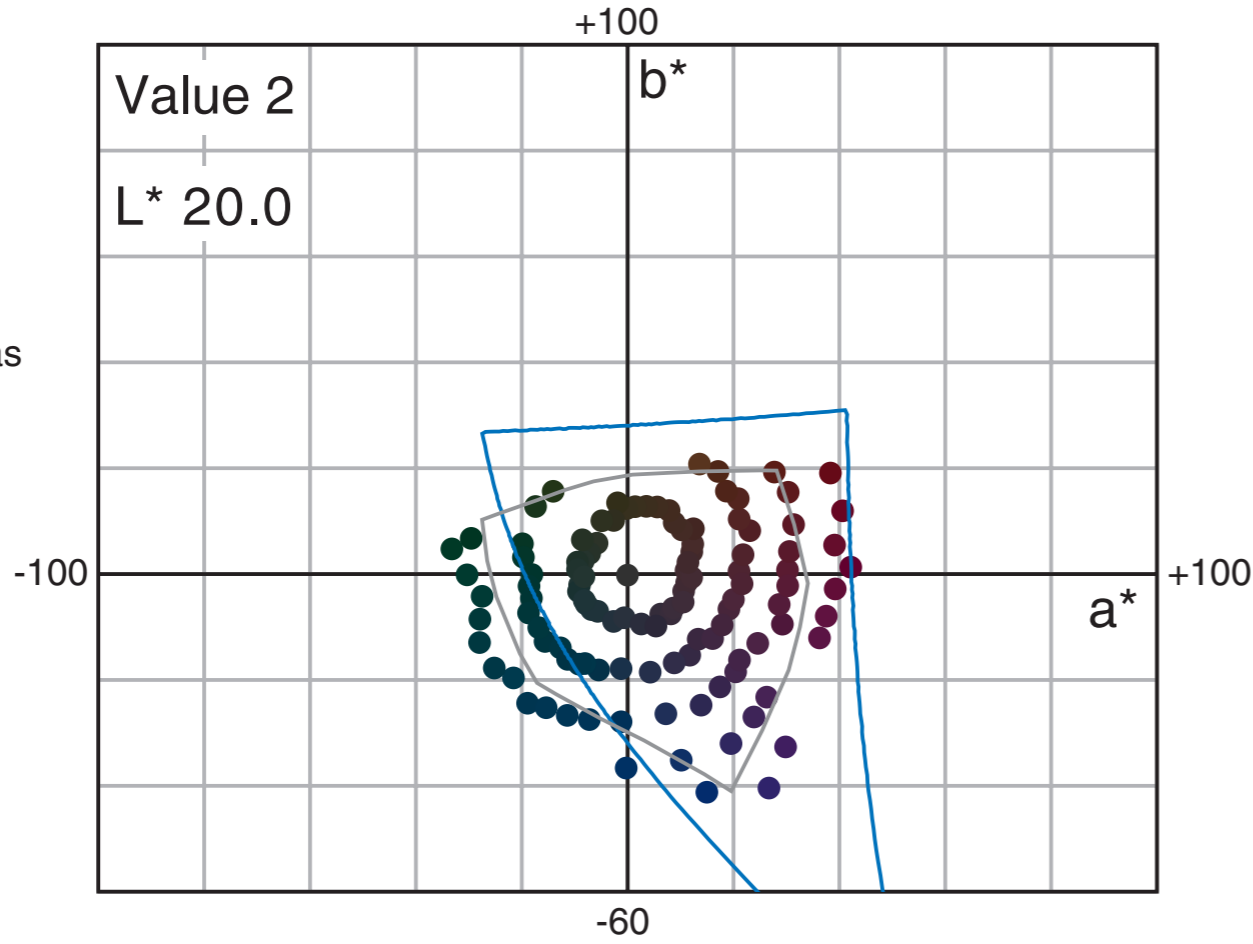
**Planes of constant Value in CIELab**

Gamut boundaries

Blue  
sRGB

Gray  
ISOCoated\_v2\_eci

L\* was calculated as  
mean value



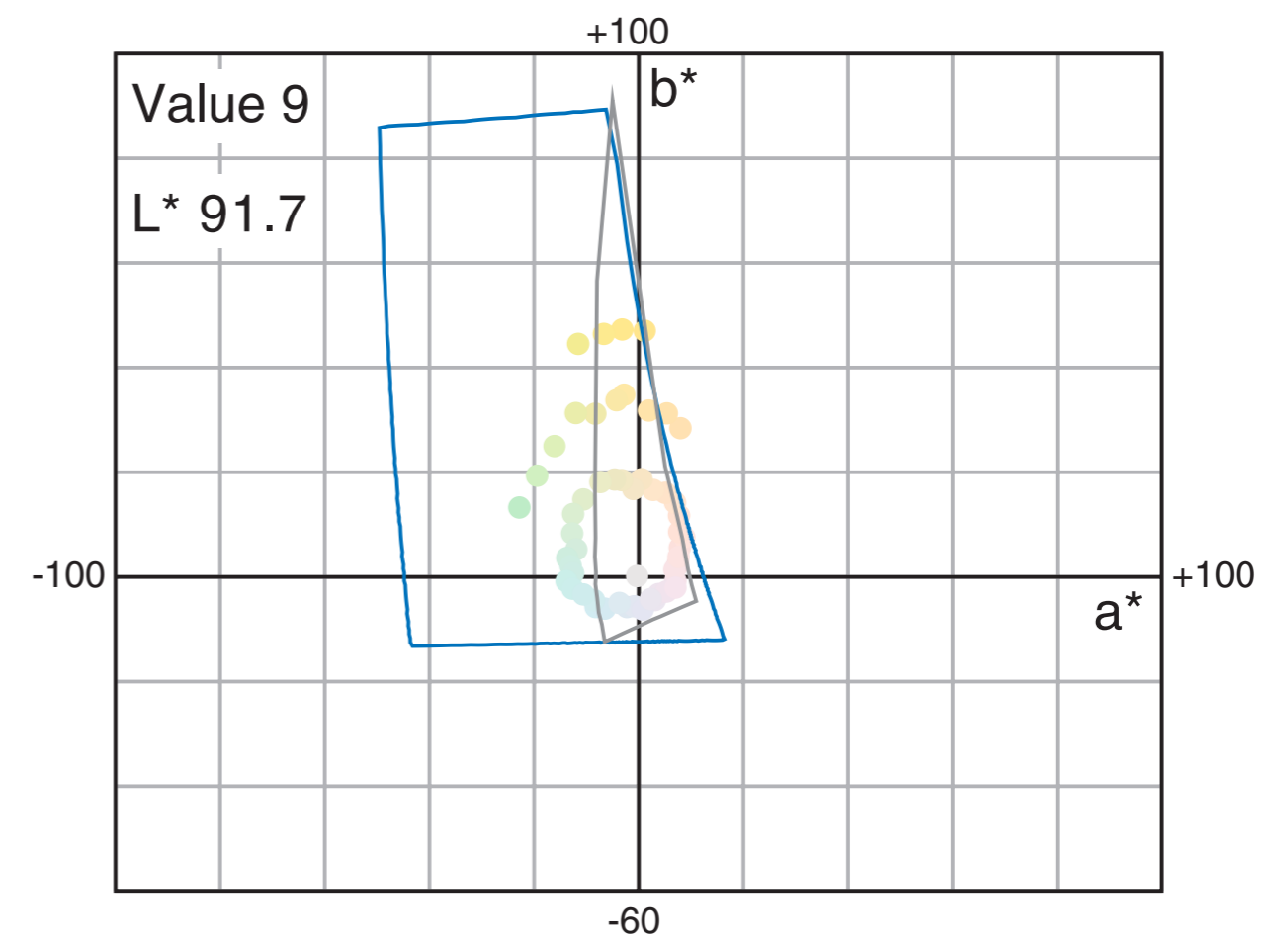
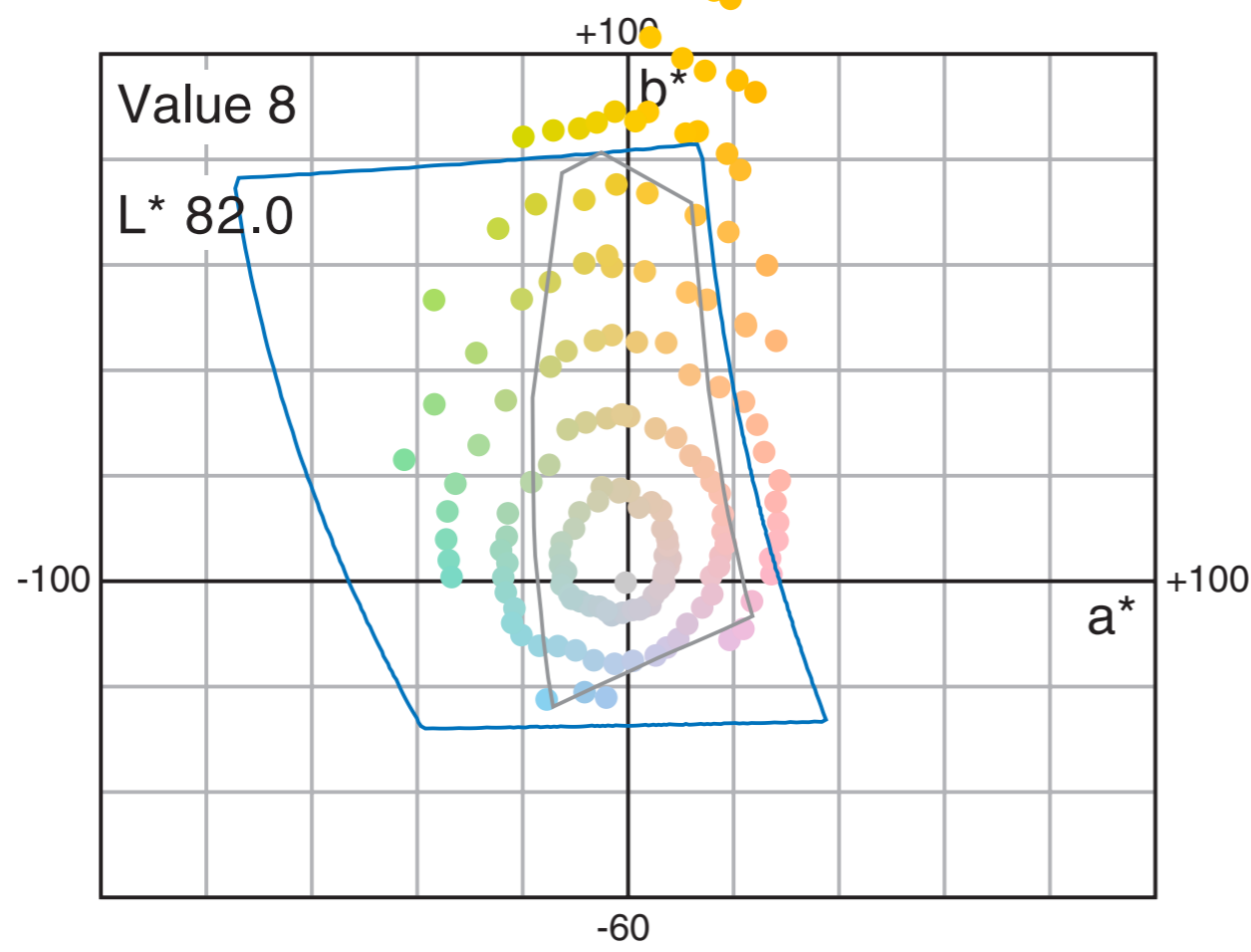
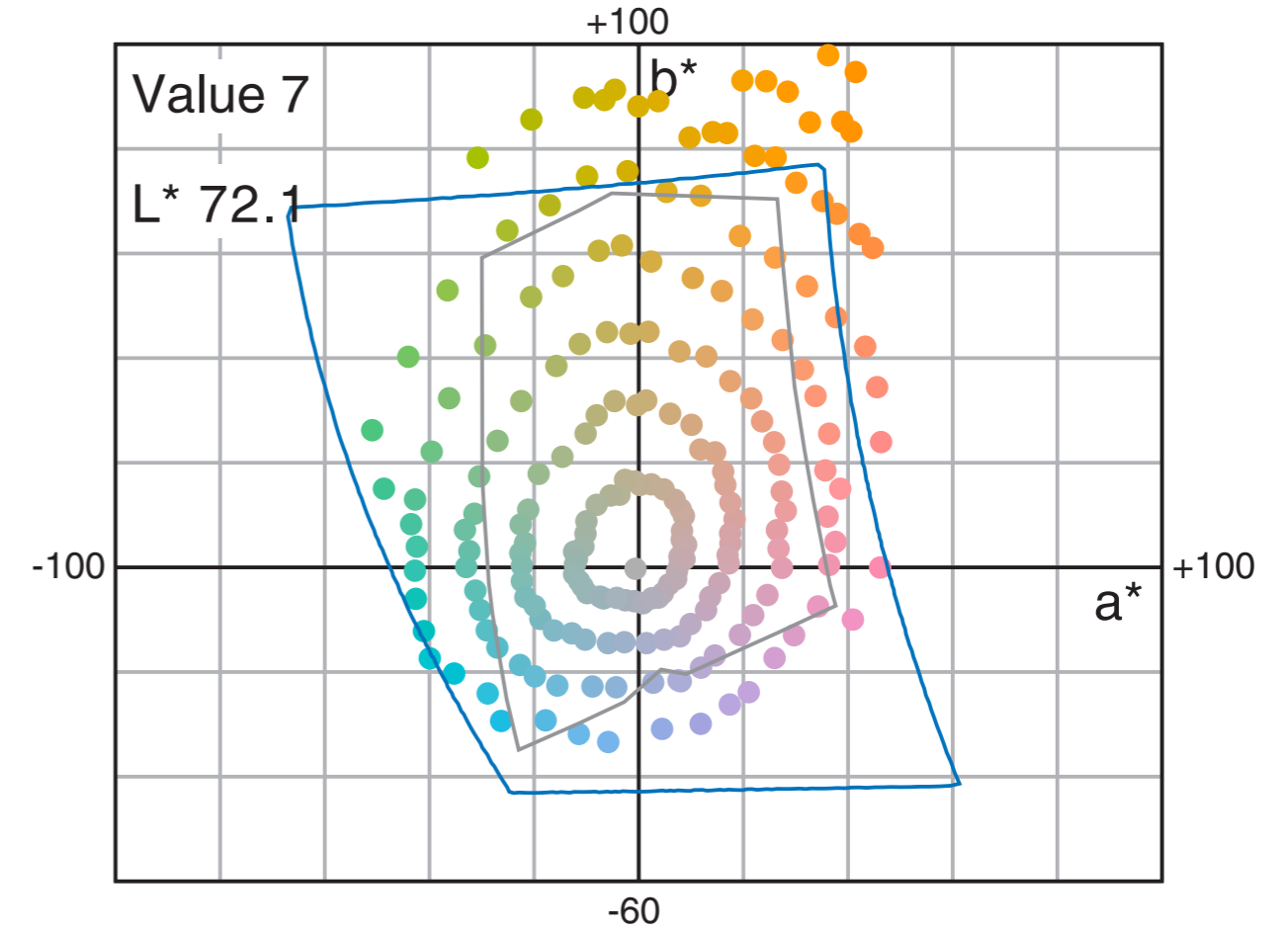
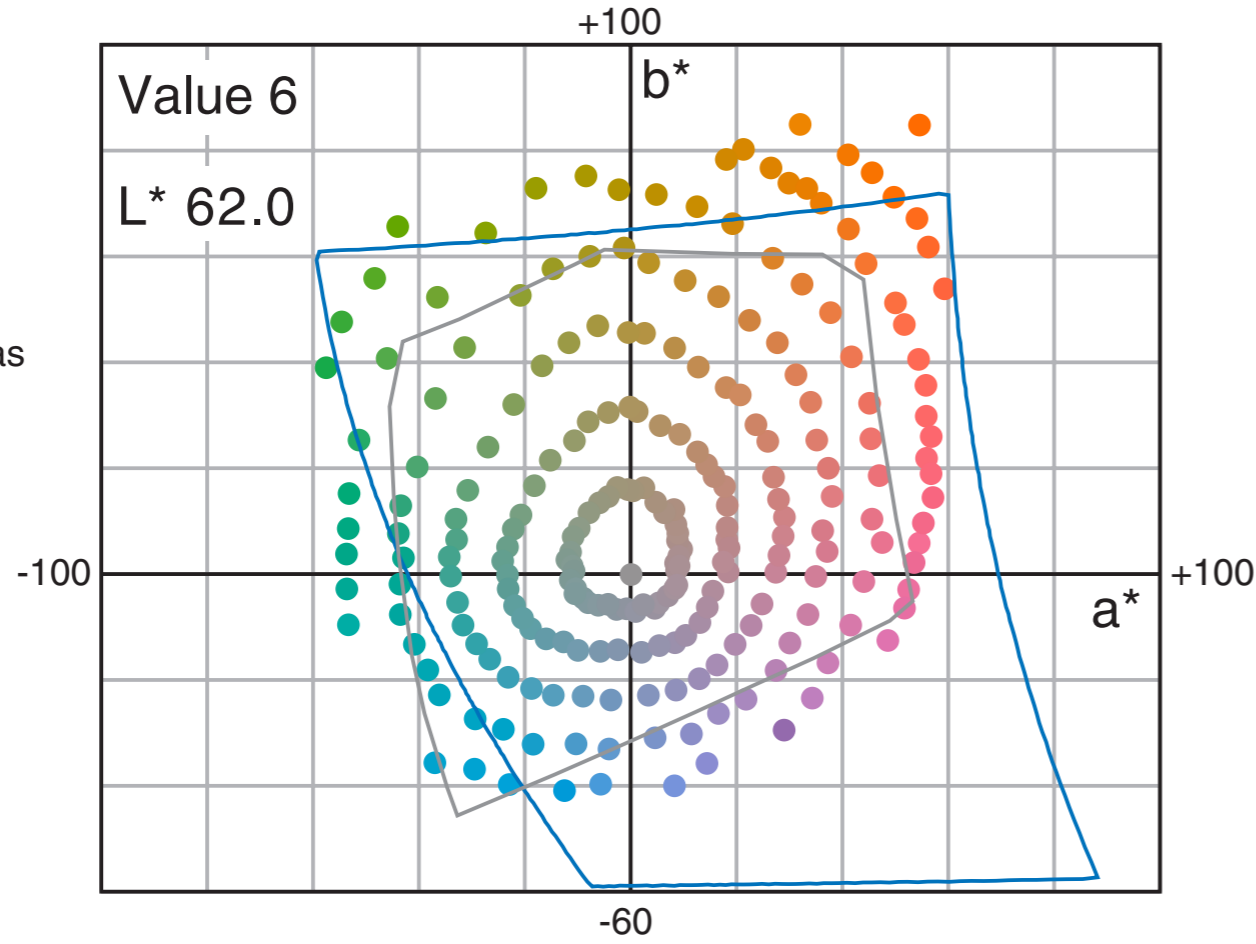
**Planes of constant Value in CIELab**

Gamut boundaries

Blue  
sRGB

Gray  
ISOCoated\_v2\_eci

L\* was calculated as mean value



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<http://docs-hoffmann.de/munsell15052009-AbsCol-NoBPC.pdf>